

DAY, AUGUST 22, 1995
Residents refuse to move for \$1.4 billion subway project
BEIJING (AFP) — Residents in Guangzhou, refusing to move to a new city, are causing serious delays in a 2 billion yuan (\$1.4 billion) subway project, a report said Tuesday. "Unexpected delays in the relocation of residents... the daily quoted Li Zhaoyang of the Guangdong province, as saying. Residents, particularly people, are refusing to move from their homes despite government offers of good housing with efficient access to the subway, the report said. 100,000 Guangzhou residents are to be moved from the area of the project, the newspaper is quoting Li as saying. Work was "fundamentally completed" by the end of the year 1998. By only one third of the construction has been completed, the report, citing local officials, promises to be scheduled by the end of the year. Some have been placed in one zone, seen demolished and more households are contracts recently with local governments to next spring, it said. That more than 200,000 residents had to be moved in relocation and the new apartments are building shortages are a factor threatening project, according to a recent report, which Chinese government issue bonds to borrow money.

Count Pono stand for Free Democrats
BONN (AFP) — The Democratic Party (DP) entered a candidate launch city election near who is leader in or steady stream than for his political life. Express news reported Monday. The Rinaldo Talamone paper recalled some work words "I don't know the Bible". Inapplicable and his father and "The truck" Chairman of 1969 to 1972. He was among's business activities. films, before becoming a book-seller and then a teacher. Sch-pom films are a Bur-an-ges. Former Miss Germany Dagmar Wehler (who Beauty Belle Jangle fight) is today a member of parliament for the conservative Christian Union.

kidney experiences longest fall in 137 years
YDNEY (AFP) — Experts said Sunday when rain fell for the 35th consecutive day over the eastern city. The Bureau meteorology said prolonged dryness in London in Sydney was at this without rain for a period without rain for 358. The dry weather, caused by high pressure, was in the centre of continent moving northwards the coast. An area spokesman, government of the state of New South Wales, said it may see restrictions on water use in the city. The continued are already residents are already using water from 6 p.m.

Two SLA militiamen killed in attack
MARIYOUN (AFP) — Hizbollah guerrillas Tuesday killed two Israeli-backed militiamen in a roadside attack in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon, the South Lebanon Army (SLA) said. The attack on a patrol occurred in the centre of Israel's self-declared "security zone" along the Israeli-Lebanese border as it travelled along a road to Barasheet. The deaths were also confirmed by Israeli military officials. A Hizbollah spokesman contacted in Beirut by AFP claimed the attack "on an enemy patrol of that was travelling along the road to Barasheet" which "killed and wounded the occupants of an armoured vehicle." Israeli and SLA forces swung into action after the attack firing mortars at the area of Maybin, a stronghold of Hizbollah in the west of the Bekaa Valley. An Israeli army spokesman also confirmed that fighter planes had fired on "terrorist bases" in southern Lebanon from which anti-Israel attacks had been launched. He said the targets had been destroyed and the planes had returned safely to their bases in Israel.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية. الراي.

Musa expected here on Saturday
AMMAN (J.T.) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, who delayed a scheduled Monday visit to Amman because his Jordanian counterpart Abdul Karim Kabariti was ill, will now make the visit on Saturday, official sources said. The main focus of the visit will be the situation in the region following the defection to Jordan of Iraqi Minister of Industry Hussein Kamel Hassan and Jordanian-Egyptian relations. Mr. Musa said Tuesday he wanted a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to His Majesty King Hussein "on the peace process and... current developments in the Arab World." Mr. Musa met last week with Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for the Middle East, who Tuesday ended a tour of the region to discuss the situation in Iraq after the defection. Mr. Mubarak cast doubt on reports by one of the defectors that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was planning to invade Kuwait or Saudi Arabia. "From my military experience, I don't think it is true what's been said that Saddam Hussein was going to repeat the invasion... even if there was a (military) buildup," Mr. Mubarak said.

Pelletreau briefs King on talks with regional leaders

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — Senior U.S. State Department official Robert Pelletreau on Tuesday briefed His Majesty King Hussein on the outcome of talks he held with other Middle Eastern leaders, mainly King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait, on the situation in the region in the wake of the defection of a senior Iraqi official to Jordan.

Also expected to have been discussed by the King and Mr. Pelletreau, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, were American efforts to bring closer the views of Jordan and the Gulf states.

Ties between Jordan and Gulf states were strained because of what the Gulf states perceived as Jordan's support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis triggered by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. However, concerted efforts since then have improved the relations, and the reconciliation process was obviously accelerated by Jordan's decision to grant asylum to Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, Iraq's minister of industry and son-in-law of President Saddam Hussein, who defected to the Kingdom on Aug. 8.

However, Jordan has reaffirmed that reconciliation with the Gulf states would not come at the expense of the strong relationship between Amman and Baghdad despite obvious American efforts to deepen the differences caused by the Jordanian decision to grant refuge to Gen. Hassan, who on Aug. 12 vowed to overthrow President Saddam.

It was Mr. Pelletreau's second visit to Jordan in one week following the defection. Accompanied by Mark Parris, a special envoy of President Bill Clinton, he flew to Jordan last Thursday and held talks with the King and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker before leaving for Egypt on Friday.

He also visited Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for talks with King Fahd and Sheikh Jaber before returning to Amman late Monday. He left for home late Tuesday.

An American embassy spokesman said "the objective (of Mr. Pelletreau's visit) was to review (with the King) the recent developments in the region and (to hold) consultations on the talks he held with other regional leaders."

No elaboration was immediately available.

Reports from the Gulf said Mr. Pelletreau had discussed with King Fahd and Sheikh Jaber the possibility of their countries replacing Iraq as Jordan's oil supplier as part of an American effort to isolate Baghdad by severing trade and economic links between Jordan and its eastern neighbour.

However, Jordan, Iraq's only lifeline to the outside world after the U.N. imposed crippling sanctions on the country following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, affirmed on Saturday that the Kingdom would not undertake any measures that would



An Israeli soldier checks a bus carrying Palestinian passengers at the Aram checkpoint at the northern entrance to Jerusalem on Tuesday after Israel sealed off the occupied West Bank, excluding Jerusalem, after a bomb explosion in Jerusalem on Monday (AFP photo)

Israel, PLO resume talks

OCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Tuesday resumed talks on a deal expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank until after the funerals of the victims were held.

Monday's attack was the latest in a series of bombings that has killed 77 Israelis and tourists since the 1993 Israel-PLO framework peace accord.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat condemned the bombing. He said he would not allow attacks on Israel to be launched from the Gaza Strip or Jericho West Bank autonomous enclaves.

Israeli President Ezer Weizman was quoted by Israel's Maariv newspaper on Tuesday as saying the peace process should be reviewed in light of the bombings.

Mr. Weizman said he preferred going straight to the permanent peace settlement, skipping over interim self-rule in the West Bank, which has been delayed for more than a year.

Autonomy began in most of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho in May 1994. Final peace talks are set to begin no later than mid-1996.

A key problem snagging the West Bank deal is an Israeli troop withdrawal from Hebron, the only Palestinian town with Israelis living in it. Israel, fearing for the settlers' safety, does not want to leave.

Access to scarce water resources and the number of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel to be freed under a peace deal are also problems. Hamas's military wing said in a statement it was behind Monday's bombing. It vowed more attacks "from now to the next Israeli elections" to derail the peace process.

The Israeli army sealed off the West Bank and the Gaza Strip until Wednesday following the explosion.

The bombing have undermined Israeli public support for the peace deal and for Mr. Rabin. Elections are set for November next year.

Israeli Tourism Minister Uzi Baram told Israel's army radio the effect of militant attacks, especially if one occurred near elections, could not be ignored.

"It's possible the government would be replaced. Anyone... who says terror does not hurt the government and its value in the eyes of the public is mistaken," Mr. Baram said.

U.S.: No sign of Iraqi invasion plans

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has detected no evidence that Iraq is preparing to invade Jordan or Kuwait, but is moving men and equipment to the region as a precaution to deter any such move, Defence Secretary William Perry said on Tuesday.

"These have been some unusual deployments of Iraqi military forces," he told reporters during a picture-taking session in this Pentagon office. But, he added, the movements were "nothing that leads us to believe that any invasion is under way or planned."

The Pentagon said last week that it was sending ships with tanks and arms for as many as 22,000 marines and army troops closer to the Gulf region. It also moved many warships to the area and advanced a scheduled training exercise in Kuwait in response to what the Pentagon said was a five-week-old pattern of unusual troop movements.

Mr. Perry did not make clear whether the Iraqi movements at issue were continuing. "It is a matter that bears careful watching, and

Ekeus meets Hussein Kamel, but said to receive no secrets

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — Senior U.N. arms inspector Rolf Ekeus on Tuesday met with Hussein Kamel Hassan, former head of Iraq's military industrialisation programme who defected to Jordan this month, but failed to extract any Iraqi secrets from the defector, according to a source.

Mr. Ekeus, a Swedish diplomat who heads the U.N. Special Commission on eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction under U.N. terms, met with Lieutenant-General Hassan, a son-in-law of President Saddam Hussein, at an undisclosed site for four hours and could meet him again, informed sources said.

Mr. Ekeus had delayed his departure from Jordan until Wednesday, said the sources.

Major Izzeddine Hassan, a cousin of Gen. Hassan, who also defected on Aug. 8, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press that the U.N. official did not get any Iraqi military secrets in Tuesday's meeting.

Major Hassan, who reportedly attended the meeting, said the general and Mr. Ekeus "discussed the Iraqi arms industry."

"But all the secrets were revealed by" the Iraqi government, which invited Mr. Ekeus to Baghdad to receive

Jordan gets \$33m IMF credit

AMMAN (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has given Amman a \$33 million extended credit facility for having attained its targets in an economic reform plan, Finance Minister Basel Jaraneh said on Tuesday.

Mr. Jaraneh told Reuters Jordan "had implemented all the requirements of the economic readjustment programme until June 30, 1995."

The credit is part of a \$268 million facility granted by the IMF over three years. The facility includes an extra \$887 million of access to IMF resources given to states that perform exceptionally well.

Jordan's economy is expected to grow 6.0 per cent in 1995.

U.S. rebuilds peace team; Croatians 'battle ready'

SARAJEVO (R) — Croatian troops were "battle ready" around the Adriatic port of Dubrovnik on Tuesday and could strike Serb gunners perched in the hills above at any time, U.N. officials said.

In Washington, officials were meeting again on Tuesday to rebuild their stricken mediating team which is trying to head off more bloodshed in the Balkans.

Defence Secretary William Perry, National Security Adviser Anthony Lake and Secretary of State Warren Christopher want the team, which lost three members in a crash near Sarajevo at the weekend, back in Europe next week to keep up momentum.

Time appears to be of the essence, with shooting continuing at key points in the conflict. Eyewitnesses said a huge blast rocked the western suburbs of Sarajevo, destroying an industrial building and setting an apartment block on fire.

Four floors of a five-storey building collapsed after it appeared to have been hit by a large rocket, a Reuters journalist at the scene said. At least one person was buried in the rubble.

On the Croatian coast, Croatian army troops and Bosnian Serb gunners prepared for a showdown around Dubrovnik.

"Our assessment is they (the Croats) are battle ready and could strike at any time," U.N. military spokesman Major Don Roy said.

Some 10,000 Croatian troops have massed near the historic port and Bosnian Serbs have sent reinforcements and dug in for a fight.

It was unclear whether Croatia would strike to drive the Bosnian forces out of range of Dubrovnik or would give the American peace initiative a chance.

Mr. Perry, Mr. Lake and Mr. Christopher pressed ahead on Monday, meeting for talks just after a ceremony to honour the diplomats who died when their armoured car veered off a mountain road near the Bosnian capital.

The three officials were due on Tuesday to meet the mediating team leaders.

Jordan is weighing its options vis-a-vis Iraq

Questions galore, but answers need time

By Nermeen Murad
Special to the Jordan Times

THE DILEMMA that has faced Jordan ever since the defection of Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, namely on whether to start playing an active role in the effort to further isolate Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, seems to have found an answer — for now. Jordan will not take active measures to topple the Iraqi regime but nor will it foreclose options in dealing with the fast-changing situation in Iraq and the region generally.

The reaction of the government, the Lower House of Parliament and the press in general has been that the defection should not be used to put further pressure on the Iraqi regime," says Senator Jawad Anani, the former minister of information. "But there are other questions that have to be answered before we foreclose all other options open to us," the member of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) argues.

Such questions, as posed by Dr. Anani and other political figures, include whether Jordan should be involved in determining the future of Iraq, which is closely connected to that of Jordan, when there is a real opportunity to do so as the case must be now, and whether it might be too harmful and dangerous for Jordan's vital interests to shy away from playing a regional role when everybody else is vying for it.

The list of questions is indeed long, argue politicians and analysts. In Dr. Anani's view, there are five specific questions which Jordanians who want to remain passive vis-a-vis the shifting sands in Iraq have to ask themselves.

Should we expect change in Iraq after the defection of Gen. Hassan? Should there be change in the regime in Baghdad, how would the new leaders react to continued neutrality by Jordan, assuming that it did nothing between now and when change happens? And if there is no change, and the sanctions are lifted, how would the present regime accept the fact that Jordan granted asylum to Gen. Hassan and also gave him access to call for the ouster of President Saddam and his government? If Jordan remains neutral and the U.N. imposed sanctions continue to bite into the fabric of Iraqi society will not Jordan be risking not only the possibility of an Iraqi refugee problem at its borders as a result of the continued agony and hardship but also defeating its own policy objective of alleviating the suffering of the Iraqis?

There are of course more questions being posed by other politicians and analysts. Jordan, they point out, nearly lost its role as a regional player after taking a neutral position during the Gulf crisis and war. Should the Kingdom expect to regain that role by doing nothing? On the other hand, should not Jordan, which gave up another important card in regional politics by not speaking for the Palestinians before the convening of the Madrid conference, make up for the loss if it will not take an active part in other regional theatres?

"Jordan not only paid a heavy political price for its decision to stay neutral in the Gulf war," another former minister says. "But its attempts to rebuild itself economically have not led to prosperity even after signing the peace treaty"

With Israel, he adds. "A decision by Jordan therefore to participate in international attempts to topple the Iraqi regime, parallel to already successful reconciliation efforts with the Gulf states led by Saudi Arabia, may just be what Jordan needs at the present."

"If intelligence information made available to Jordan can convince us that the Iraqi regime will not last longer than a few months, then Jordan has to move fast in order to ensure that its relationship with the new regime is at least as good as it was with Saddam's before the invasion of Kuwait," argues the former minister, who requested anonymity.

Those who are in favour of playing a direct role in cooperation and water sharing. "On at least three of these four counts there is a common Iraqi-Israeli interest in which Jordan can play an important role," says a former Jordanian negotiator in peace talks with Israel.

Behind all these regional considerations, analysts also point out, Jordan stands to curry favour with U.S. President Bill Clinton personally if it joins the U.S.-led campaign to topple President Saddam.

As Mr. Clinton prepares to enter the race for presidential elections next year, reports from Washington have already hinted that His Majesty's decision to grant asylum to the Iraqi defectors will strengthen the president's hand in establishing his forcefulness in foreign policy.

The New York Times

Turkish women to stress insult means injury in Beijing

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish experts will take to the U.N. Conference on Women a new project that says insult amounts to injury — a concept that is hard to establish when physically battered women here are just learning to complain.

Funded by the European Commission, the \$25,000 project shows to groups of women in low-income, squatter areas around the capital video-taped vignettes on physical and verbal violence.

At the end, over tea and cakes many of the women openly admit that they too had been beaten, sexually abused or verbally humiliated by a husband, brother or father.

"He never told me I was ugly, but he did shout at me in front of our friends," said a 55-year-old woman of her husband after a recent show in a home in the Altindag quarter.

She was commenting on one of the scenes showing a man "disgusted" with his wife's looks. In others, a husband insults his wife's cooking skills and her intelligence in public.

"But our men cannot change and we should not expect it," objected another woman.

"He is the breadwinner. If he wants warm soup, or quick service we should deliver," she said.

However, she and the rest bitterly responded during scenes of physical violence. They drew from their own experiences to imagine the rest of a vignette that tapered off just as a husband was about to hit his wife.

"Women were not aware that verbal abuse was really abuse," said Gulseren Washington, educational psychologist who together with the private Women's Solidarity Foundation is carrying out the project.

"Most believe oral abuse is their 'destiny' and they must accept it."

"We are trying to tell them not to wait until the point of physical abuse."

The four-year-old foundation takes in battered women, housing them and their children in a shelter for about three months while helping them develop income-earning skills.

In June, the awareness-raising campaign was launched, introducing an emphasis on verbal abuse.

"Even though we can't take in verbal abuse victims, we counsel them on how to handle it," Ms. Washington said.

If it works, the project will travel to other parts of the country.

So far, unlike physically abused women, the few who sought help against verbal abuse came from educated, higher-income backgrounds, or were working women.

"I met an engineer whose husband, an architect insulted her every day, all the time," said Sevinc Unal, a foundation member who also works at a government centre for battered women.

"She said she couldn't leave him because it would look bad in her circle, even though she had her own income and her own flat."

A 1990 census put the average literacy rate among women at 69 per cent, significantly lower than the men's 90 per cent. The difference gets sharper after high school, and in rural areas where there are five times more illiterate women than men.

Even physically battered women were reluctant to change their lives, lacking skills and being fully dependent on their husbands for their survival.

"Those who come to the foundation are women who have reached the limit of suffering, of bearing physical abuse," said Ms. Washington.

Oya Fisek, a co-founder of the Women's Solidarity Foundation, agreed.

"Many women don't think that one or two slaps across the face is equal to violence," she said.

"The worst I ever saw was a woman who came to us bleeding, with her ear in her hand — her husband had cut it off."

Turkey is sending to Beijing 35 officials from its state ministry for women's services. Scores more are going from non-governmental organisations.



FUNERAL: An Israeli policeman mourns at the funeral Tuesday of chief superintendent Noam Eisenman, 35, who was killed in a bomb explosion in Jerusalem on Monday. Five people, including a possible suicide bomber, were killed in the blast (see page one) (AFP photo)

PNA jails 3 'bombers'; Arafat talks tough

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Three men who allegedly planned a bomb attack on the Israeli army were jailed for several years overnight Monday by the Palestinian National Authority's (PNA) state security court.

"The three were preparing to bomb an Israeli military patrol," Palestinian Attorney-General Khaled Al Kidra told AFP.

"They were undergoing training in explosives," he said.

Rabin Zeno was sentenced to five years, Mohammad Abu Hamad and Anis Abu Jazar to three and a half years each.

Aged from 20 to 22 all three lived in the town of Rafah, close to the border with Egypt. They were arrested two weeks ago, police said.

They were members of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which opposes the PLO's autonomy agreements, but acted alone, Mr. Kidra said.

It was the first session of the controversial security court since May.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat set up the court in March under pressure from Israel to crack down on militants fighting against occupation and the autonomy accords.

But human rights groups have strongly condemned the summary trials which take place at night in camera and with little respect for international judicial norms.

Mr. Arafat has vowed to cut off the hands of any Palestinian militants taking orders from abroad, after a suicide bus bombing in Jerusalem killed six and wounded 100.

"Each time we are getting near to an accord on prisoners or we find ourselves only two steps from Al Quds, something happens and I have proof that it is not just by chance, in fact it is just the opposite," Mr. Arafat said.

He was addressing an audience commemorating the burning of the Al Aqsa mosque on Aug. 12, 1969.

"The higher interest (for the Palestinians) lies not in the orders dictated from abroad to carry out an operation and receive in return money," he said.

"I will cut off the hand of anyone receiving orders from abroad whether that be Iran or any other country."

"I am not the one stopping the tanks from arriving in Jerusalem or Nablus" in the occupied West Bank, he said, referring to countries opposed to the peace process such as Iran and who have urged force to retake the occupied territories.

He also said it made no difference whether Monday's suicide bomber was a man or a woman, saying "a Muslim doesn't attack innocent civilians."

The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, which is violently opposed to the PLO's autonomy accords with Israel, claimed Monday's attack on a peace bus in a Jewish quarter of Jerusalem in an anonymous call to Israel radio.

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U.S. denounces bomb attack in Jerusalem

WASHINGTON — In the wake of terrorist bombing in Jerusalem, the United States pledged to stand with the people of Israel in working toward a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The explosion, apparently triggered by a suicide bomber, ripped through two buses, killing at least five persons, including an American tourist, and injuring more than 100 others, many of them seriously.

Both President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher condemned the act of terrorism and expressed their condolences to the families of those who were killed or injured.

"The president, in the name of the American people, joins with the people of Israel in renewing our determination to work together in the cause of peace," White House Press Secretary Michael McCurry said in a written statement issued in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

"These enemies of peace will not succeed."

He said the United States stands with Israel and all those who work for peace and a safer future for the people of the region.

"Those who carried out this attack had one purpose: to kill Israelis and to destroy the peace process. We must not allow these extremists to succeed; we will not submit to their terror and intimidation; and we will not permit them to kill the chances for peace through negotiations."

While Israel suspended its ongoing negotiations with the Palestinian Authority in the wake of the terrorist bombing, Mr. Johnson told reporters that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin assured Christopher in a telephone conversation that "the Israeli government plans to move forward after a short suspension."

The secretary called Rabin to convey his condolences.

In his written statement, Mr. Christopher noted that the people of Israel "have chosen not to surrender to the forces of extremism and terror and to pursue peace."

He acknowledged the choice was not an easy one, but he said "it offers a real chance to achieve a peace with the kind of security that Israelis have been denied for so long."

Asked about right-wing demonstrations in a number of Israeli cities and towns which have demanded that the peace process be abandoned, the deputy spokesman replied: "I would not discount the anger of those who would like to derail this process and to incite more violence in the region."

However, he continued, "based on the evidence that we have, based on the cooperation that the Israeli security authorities have been able to have with the Palestinian Authority and the bombings that have been stopped, the

render to the forces of extremism and terror and to pursue peace. Today they demonstrate that courage again by submitting themselves to pursue peace with their Palestinian neighbours. This choice is not an easy one. But it offers a real chance to achieve a peace with the kind of security that Israelis have been denied for so long. Fortified by the courage and determination already shown by those committed to peace, we will do everything we can to help the parties reach their goal of a lasting, comprehensive peace with security for all."

Following is the White House statement:

"President Clinton condemns the tragic act of terrorism that took place in Jerusalem this morning. The attack by a suicide bomber against a public bus has taken the lives of several innocent civilians, and has wounded many, including two Americans."

"The president expressed his deep sadness at the loss of life and sends his heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims of today's bombing. The President, in the name of the American people, joins with the people of Israel in renewing our determination to work together in the cause of peace. These enemies of peace will not succeed. The United States stands with Israel and all those who work for peace and a safer future for the people of the region."

Afghanistan, Iran set up narcotics control body

KABUL (R) — Afghanistan and Iran have agreed to set up a joint commission to examine ways of controlling the flow of narcotics through the region, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Alaeddin Brujerdi said on Monday.

He told a news conference after two-day visit to the Afghan capital that the two governments had agreed the commission would meet as soon as possible.

"We want poppy-growing areas in Afghanistan to be converted to useful alternative crops and we want to crack down on the flow of narcotics across our border," he said.

The Afghan government agreed to help us in this regard and they will send a delegation to Tehran soon."

According to a United Nations Drug Control Programme survey, Afghanistan produces more opium than any other country in the world, much of it grown in remote tribal regions close to the Iranian border.

Afghan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Najibullah Lefraie said the joint commission would examine a number of options for tackling the problem, but the two governments had not discussed concrete proposals.

Besides his talks with Mr. Lefraie, Mr. Brujerdi also met embattled Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his main military commander, Ahmad Shah Masood.

Apart from drugs, the two sides also discussed ways to resolve Afghanistan's long civil war, Mr. Brujerdi said.

"We are very concerned about the continuing tensions inside Afghanistan, and we expressed our hope for an early settlement here," he said.

The conflict in Afghanistan has shifted to the northern-central provinces of Samangan and Jowzjan where rival Shiite Muslim factions are battling for control.

Mr. Brujerdi said he was prepared to send a delegation to the northern opposition-controlled city of Mazar-e Sharif if it would help ease the situation.

But Mr. Afraie declined the offer, saying: "These are domestic problems that we prefer to solve ourselves."

Mr. Brujerdi said his schedule had included a stop in the eastern town of Jalalabad to meet former prime minister and opposition Hezb-e-Islami faction leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. But he said the trip was cancelled when he was told Mr. Hekmatyar was not available.

In January, Mr. Masood accused Iran of giving financial support to the mainly Shiite opposition Hezb-e-Wahdat Party, which was then fighting for control of Kabul and was later ousted from there.

But in a remark suggesting that Kabul had put the issue behind, Mr. Lefraie said he believed the Iranian government was pursuing "a realistic policy towards Afghanistan" and that relations between the two sides were warm.

3 more Algerians to run for president

PARIS (Agencies) — Three Algerian politicians, including a woman, have announced their intention to stand in the country's controversial presidential elections scheduled for November, the Algerian official news agency APS reported.

APS said on Monday night that Mahdjoubi Chelbia, a member of the government-appointed Transitional National Council (CNT), became the first woman to say she will stand for the presidency.

Mr. Chelbia will run on behalf of the Movement for the Youth and Democracy (MJD) which is led by Hamidou Redouane, a former bodyguard of Algeria's first President Ahmad Ben Bella who was ousted by the military in a bloodless coup in 1965.

Mohammad Saadi, leader of the eastern town of Constantine-based Boumediennist Islamic National Front, and Abdul Kader Belhail, chief of the Algerian National Rally, also announced their candidacy.

It was not yet clear how they would manage to overcome the first hurdle by drawing 75,000 supporters' signatures to enable them to run for the presidency as the three were from very small groups.

Nourredine Boukrouh, a moderate Islamist intellectual and former journalist who heads the Algerian Renewal Party, said on Sunday he will stand for the election and stated he wants to be Algeria's "man of rebuilding and reconciliation."

Algeria's military-backed government, fighting an armed challenge of radicals, said last week it will hold fair and presidential elections on Nov. 16.

The country's main militant group, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), denounced the election as an attempt by the authorities to win legitimacy and vowed to stop the vote.

The main opposition political movements have dismissed the election plan, saying it will only prolong violence and the suffering of Algeria's 28 million people.

Meanwhile, gunmen fatally shot an elderly Muslim cleric and a journalist in the latest pre-election violence, reports said.

The government appointed cleric, 73-year-old Salah Bouteine, was fatally shot Sunday in his mosque following afternoon prayers, security forces said in a statement.

He was the 54th imam to be slain in the three-year-old insurgency which Amour Ouagueni, 36, who worked for the French-language daily Le Matin, was shot Sunday in a residential area of the capital, the newspaper said.

Mr. Ouagueni died of his wounds Monday, becoming the 48th journalist killed during the insurgency.

There was no claim of responsibility for the shootings, though suspicion fell on the Armed Islamic Group. The newspaper's director was killed last year in an attack claimed by the group, known by its French initials GIA.

Callers for the group have claimed responsibility for Thursday's Paris bomb attack that wounded 17 people near the Arc de Triomphe, and a Paris regional subway bombing in July that killed seven and injured 84.

The GIA condemns France for supporting the government in the former colony.

Sudan to expand external relations

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan has drawn up plans to expand its external relations to boost economic investment and present its Islamic model to the world, the press reported on Tuesday.

Foreign Minister Ali Osman Mohammad Taha was quoted by the daily Al Sudan Al Hadith as saying his ministry "seeks to employ Sudan's external relations for economic promotion with a view to attracting foreign investments in addition to introducing to the world the Sudan's cultural (Islamic) model."

The foreign minister, who was speaking Monday at a meeting chaired by the newly appointed minister of cabinet affairs, retired Brigadier Salahuddin-Karar, said the plan was aimed at expanding Sudan's relations with the Arab and African nations and at "normalising relations with America and Europe for achievement of common interests."

He said branch departments had been formed within the ministry to be in charge of human rights, peace, the Islamic world, minorities, women and environmental issues.

Relief supplies

Two towns in civil war-torn southern Sudan will receive four months' worth of relief supplies in the next few days, Al Sudan Al Hadith said in a separate report.

Al Sudan Al Hadith said the aid would be airdropped on Pochala in Jonglei state and Torit in eastern Equatoria state from the Kenyan town of Lokichokio.

The paper also said 3,307 tonnes of relief aid was due to move in the next few days

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Valley 22 / 36		Food Control Centre 637111		Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 5324015, where it should always be verified.	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 48 per cent. Aqaba 49 per cent.		Civil Defence Department 661111		ARRIVALS	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS		Civil Defence Emergency 630341		Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
NIGHT DUTY		Rescue 192 621111, 637777		08:30 Jeddah (RJ)	
AMMAN:		Fire Brigade 617101		09:55 Jeddah (RJ)	
Dr. Fakhri Belbeisi 663412		Blood Bank 775121		10:10 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)	
Dr. Mazen Shawab 630435		Highway Police 943401		10:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)	
Dr. Abdul Rahim Mustafa 744685		Traffic Police 630321		15:45 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)	
Dr. Bassam Karadshch 759201		Public Security Department 630321		15:55 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)	
Firas pharmacy 661912		Hotel Complaints 605841		18:15 Istanbul (RJ)	
Al Asema pharmacy 637055		Price Complaints 661176		18:55 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)	
Nuroouk pharmacy 636732		Water and Sewerage 897467		19:00 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)	
Al Salam pharmacy 636730		Complaints 897467		19:10 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)	
Yacoub pharmacy 644945		Amman Municipality 787111		19:15 London, Berlin (RJ)	
Shmeisani pharmacy 637641		Complaints 787111		19:15 Madrid, Paris (RJ)	
Nairouh pharmacy 636732		Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121		08:35 Beirut (RJ)	
Najih pharmacy 847632		Overseas Calls 011230		09:15 Athens (RJ)	
Electric Power 636341		Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101		09:50 Singapore (RJ)	
RJ Flight Information 06-53200		Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101		Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200		Jordan Television 774111		11:50 Beirut (ME)	
HOSPITALS		Radio Jordan 774111		13:00 Jeddah (RJ)	
AMMAN:		Water Authority 680110		14:15 Cairo (MS)	
Hussain Medical Centre 813813/32		Jordan Electricity Authority 815615		14:30 Doha, Muscat (GF)	
Khalifa Maternity, J. Amn		Company 636341		19:30 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)	
EMERGENCIES		RJ Flight Information 06-53200		22:00 Dhaka (TK)	
ZARQA:		Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200		22:55 Larnaca (CY)	
Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih 906130		FOR THE TRAVELLER		23:00 Sanua (IV)	
Khalifa pharmacy 985417		QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT		08:18 Sharjah (AH)	
		This information is supplied by		08:20 Amsterdam (KL)	

HIAZ RAILWAY TRAIN	
Dep. Amman ... 8:40 a.m. every Monday	Arr. Damascus ... 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus ... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday	Arr. Amman ... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple	700 / 500
Banana	600 / 500
Banana (Mukammal)	620
Cabbage	120 / 80
Carrot	120 / 80
Cauliflower	320 / 220
Cucumbers (large)	320 / 220
Cucumbers (small)	280 / 200
Eggplant	200 / 100
Figs	380 / 280
Garlic	680 / 500
Grapes	450 / 300
Lemon	600 / 400
Marrow (large)	300 / 100
Marrow (small)	380 / 250
Mulunkia	120 / 80
Onion (dry)	750 / 600
Orange	220 / 120
Peaches	480 / 380
Pepper (hot)	750 / 600
Pepper (sweet)	200 / 100
Potato	200 / 100
String Beans	320 / 220
Sweet Melon	520 / 400
Tomato	280 / 180
Water Melon	1400 / 100

Iran set to control body

Iran set to control body
civil war. Mr. Brueji said, "We are very concerned about the continuing conflict in Afghanistan, which has expressed our hope for a settlement there."
The conflict in Afghanistan has shifted to the northern-central provinces, where rival Shiite factions are battling for control.
Mr. Brueji said he is prepared to send a delegation to the northern controlled city of Mazar-i-Sharif if it would help the situation.
But Mr. Afrateh, domestic problems that prefer to solve ourselves. Mr. Brueji said the trip had included a visit to the eastern town of Jalalabad and former prime minister Hekmatyar, but he was told Mr. Hekmatyar was not available.
In January, Mr. Afrateh accused Iran of giving Shiite support to the Vahdat Party, which has been fighting for control of Kabul and was later from there.
But in a remark, Afrateh said that Kabul had put behind, Mr. Afrateh said he believed the Iranian government was pursuing a policy towards Afghanistan and that relations between the two sides were "warm."

Queen celebrates 44th birthday today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor celebrates her 44th birthday today. Since the beginning of the year, the Queen has been particularly active and has accepted several new international responsibilities in addition to her many activities and projects.

She became the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee of the United Nations University International Leadership Academy, which will be based in Amman and will be the first global leadership training facility and the first United Nations institution to be initiated and established in the Middle East.

In March, Queen Noor succeeded Prince Charles of England by becoming the first woman and the first Middle Eastern President of the United World College (UWC), which is an equal-opportunity education programme with nine colleges throughout the world for high school students that aims to promote peace and international understanding.

She also chaired the "Reclaiming Civil Society" symposium organised by the American University's Centre for the Study of the Global South at the U.N. World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen.

On July 22, His Majesty King Hussein entrusted Queen Noor with the responsibility of chairing and establishing the National Task Force for Children which will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the National Plan of Action, based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Foremost among Queen Noor's responsibilities are her duties as the Chairwoman of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), which she established in 1985.

NHF programmes have successfully advanced and modernised development thinking by progressing beyond traditional social welfare practices to integrate social development strategies more closely with national economic priorities, especially through the empowerment of women.

Building upon Jordan's traditions and heritage, the Foundation initiates and supports national, regional and international projects in the fields of education, women and community development, child welfare, culture and heritage.

The NHF projects, which are designed to be locally sustainable and replicable, have received international recognition as development models for the Middle East and the developing world.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is planning to establish a regional centre in Jordan based on the methodology of the NHF's Quality of Life Project, while Harvard University described NHF's Institute for Child Health and Development as "a model for the region with the best psycho-social services of any country in the Middle East."



Queen Noor received four international awards this year, among which are the "United Nations Environment Programme Global 500 Award" for her efforts to conserve the environment, to promote awareness

and to initiate community action for the preservation of Jordan's natural heritage and the "International Award for the Promotion of Development, Democracy and Peace" from the National Organisation of Arab-American Women.

She was also presented with an honorary doctorate in International Relations from the American University in Washington for her efforts to enhance the quality of life in Jordan and to improve international understanding and world peace.

Lebanon, Jordan sign new agricultural agreement

By Khalil Abdul Salam
Special to the Jordan Times

Amman — Jordan and Lebanon Tuesday signed an agreement on agricultural cooperation geared to promote trade and facilitate the exchange of agricultural products as well as technical expertise.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Agriculture Mansour Ben Tarif and his Lebanese counterpart, Shawqi Fakhouri.

In a statement following the signing of the agreement, Mr. Ben Tarif said the accord was the culmination of three days of talks on promoting exchange of agricultural products and expertise between both countries.

He added that the agreement will serve the interests of the agricultural sector in both countries, noting that it is a step on the path of Arab agricultural integration.

The minister said Jordan will provide Lebanon's Ministry of Agriculture with 400,000 saplings of forest trees, and will train Lebanese cadres in such areas as afforestation and drip-irrigation.

For his part, Mr. Fakhouri said the agreement will



Lebanese Minister of Agriculture Shawqi Fakhouri Tuesday tours agricultural research projects in Baka'a (Petra photo)

facilitate exchange of agricultural goods and expertise between both countries, adding that Lebanon is a good market for Jordanian products.

Under the agreement both parties will review the flow of agricultural products from one country to another with a view to expanding agricultural trade in order to ensure that market needs are met.

The two sides also agreed to exchange agricultural produce in accordance with

a Jordanian quarterly plan and a Lebanese agricultural agenda, agreed upon by both countries.

Under the agreement Jordan will export to Lebanon tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants, marrow, beans and watermelon, and Lebanon will export to Jordan potatoes, oranges, lemons, grapes and apples.

The two sides agreed to issue the necessary importation licences to facilitate the flow of agricultural products

to both countries.

Mr. Fakhouri, who met with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Monday had said the Lebanese government was studying a Jordanian invitation to participate in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit due in October.

The Prime Minister was quoted as saying that Jordan was ready to offer assistance to Lebanon in reconstructing its national economy following 15 years of civil strife.

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n Nov. 16.

The country's main opposition group, the Islamic Front (FI), denounced the election as an attempt by the authorities to undermine democracy and vowed to boycott it.

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Meanwhile, gunmen in Amman shot and killed an elderly Muslim and a journalist in the re-election violence.

The government appointed cleric, 75-year-old Boutaina, was in Amman Sunday in his last public appearance after security forces said he was ill.

He was the 54th in a line of three presidents in the three-year term, which was set to expire in 1996.

Mr. Boutaina, who was born in the French-language town of Maron, was shot Sunday in the re-election violence.

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Trade with S. Arabia heads for positive turn, says minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Mansour Ben Tarif Tuesday said that trade between Jordan and Saudi Arabia was expected to take a positive turn in the coming days since the recent improvement of relations between Amman and Riyadh.

Speaking upon his opening of the Middle East Fair-95 at the Amman International Expo in Marj Al Hamam, the minister said he hopes that Saudi Arabia and Jordan will soon begin exchanging greater amounts of agricultural products.

The food and agricultural fair lasts until Aug. 25 and is displaying seeds, pesticides, agricultural and irrigation

equipment, packaging and packing materials, olives, veterinary medicines, plastic sheets, dairy products, poultry farm equipment and vegetables and fruits.

The minister said that several foreign companies displaying items at the fair have expressed interest in launching joint ventures with local companies for the production of farm inputs.

Private and public firms from 10 Arab and foreign countries are taking part in the fair said the minister who noted that the fair aims at giving the local companies the chance to benefit from foreign technology and expertise in agricultural production.

Zarqa University to open

ZARQA (J.T.) — The first stage of the Zarqa State University, to be named the Hashemite University of Zarqa, will be completed early next month and will open its doors to students by Sept. 16 along with other universities, according to an announcement made Tuesday by Mudar Badran, chairman of the university's Royal Commission, while on a visit to the campus site.

The university currently comprises 13 class halls, lecture halls, a library, faculties of sciences, arts, administrative sciences, economics, and education, and laboratories, making it the sixth state-run university in the

country. Referring to the progress of work on the project, Mr. Badran, a former prime minister, said work was proceeding according to plan, and the new university will initially accept 510 students in the faculties of science, arts, education, economics and administrative sciences.

Mr. Badran said the project, set up on 67,000 square metres, will eventually accommodate 15,000 students.

The cost of the university's preliminary stage of construction is estimated at JD 25 million, according to Mr. Badran.

Darat Al Funun opens art festival in soothing summer airs

By May Muzaffar
Special to the Jordan Times

Amman — From its location overlooking the centre of Amman, Darat Al Funun (Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation) Tuesday celebrated the opening of its Summer '95 art festival.

The festival, which will continue until the Sept. 28, was opened by Minister of Culture Samir Habashneh, and was attended by a large crowd of art lovers and friends of this cultural monument who moved in and out of the multi-sectional building of the Darat, experiencing the pleasure of mixing art with nature.

The tender light of the setting sun intervened with the aroma of white jasmine and overwhelmed the gardens which hosted part of the art exhibition.

The programme set for this occasion aims at showing an integration of artistic activities. Five major exhibitions are simultaneously taking place, including: a graphic workshop that has been producing art works of several Arab artists over the past two years.

There are also exhibitions of drawings, photography and three-dimensional calligraphy, showing in the different pavilions of the two buildings.

Outdoors, taking place within nature, stands the controversial works of

Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi and the most interesting object of the young Jordanian sculptor, Her Royal Highness Rajwa Bint Ali.

Also a series of lectures will be delivered during the days of the festival. These include: 3-Dimensional Experiments in culture by Usama Al Khalidi (Aug. 29), Graphic Art in the Arab World: Contemporary Art Printmaking by Rafiq Nasiri (Iraq), Rashid Diab (Sudan) and Khalid Khreis (Jordan) (Sept. 5); Materials in Contemporary Sculpture by Dr. Khreis (Sept. 19), and finally architect Ammar Khamash (Jordan) will hold a slide show on Petra through the lens of an architect on Sept. 26.

Video films focusing on world famous modern artists (Picasso, Matisse, Nagoshi and Calder) will be shown from Sept. 9 to 14.

Bringing the evening to a close, Syrian composer and singer Bashar Zarkan gave a concert, singing a selection of famous Sufi poetry set to his own original compositions for oud, thus ending a very special night in which traditions closely embraced modernism, in quite a dramatic encounter.

The writer is an Iraqi poet and art critic. She contributed this article to the

Jordan, Syria hope to facilitate cross border travel, transport

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian-Syrian committee in charge of facilitating transit and transport between the two countries opened a three-day meeting in Amman Tuesday with special focus on ways to reduce formalities and routine to a minimum for travellers and goods crossing the common border.

A statement following the initial meeting, co-chaired by Ministry of Transport Secretary General Awad Tal and Omar Shurbaji, advisor to the Syrian Transport Minister, stressed the need for the two sides to accord each other reciprocal treatment in matters concerning entry fees, customs duty and the transit of trucks across their territory on their way to a third country.

Coordinating policies and adopting effective measures to combat smuggling operations, the effective organisation of procedures for overland transport that has recently witnessed an increase in traffic between the two countries, and control over vehicle axial weights are among the topics on the agenda.

The statement said that the



Ministry of Transport Secretary General Awad Tal (fourth right) and Omar Shurbaji, advisor to the Syrian Transport Minister, Tuesday meet with their accompanying teams to discuss reducing border crossing formalities (Petra photo)

two sides hope to conclude the meetings by endorsing a new overland transport agreement on these issues and covering all matters related to the transport of goods and passenger travel.

At the outset of the meeting Mr. Shurbaji said that the Syrian side hopes that the proposed agreement will provide for better organisation of the transport and transit operations between

Jordan and Syria.

Mr. Tal said the committee hopes to simplify procedures at the border posts and overcome all outstanding obstacles on travel and transit operations.

Farmers demand stricter punishment for pesticide abuses

By Marian Nimry
Special to the Jordan Times

Amman — Farmers and individuals demanded that the government apply more severe punishments against those who misuse pesticides and blamed it for not providing farmers and workers with educational programmes and advice to help them produce a healthier product for consumption.

These accusations were hurled at the government at a recent symposium entitled "Pesticides and Their Effect on Health and the Environment," at the Queen Zein Al Sharaf Complex.

"Pesticides are two-edged swords" said Ahmad Khasawneh, director of the Pesticide Residue Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture.

"On the one hand they will give us better products and will make it more worthwhile for the farmers to cultivate their land, but on the other hand the residues left may have adverse effects on human beings and the environment," he said.

Pesticide substitutes were suggested by Tawfiq Mustafa, a plant protection professor at the Agriculture Department at the University

of Jordan. Dr. Mustafa recommended more natural methods of pest control such as "pruning and burning, and using natural enemies of pests."

An example of "natural enemies" would be cats used to kill rats or ladybirds to kill mites.

He said such alternatives would have to be economically feasible for the farmer to adopt.

If that were possible, then farming under these methods "would give us healthier produce and a healthier environment," Dr. Mustafa said.

A proposal for reducing the harm done by organochlorine pesticides in general, and DDT (dichlorodiphenyl trichloroethane) in particular, was submitted by Kifayah Rajeh, a member of the Jordan Environmental Society (JES).

"Although DDT was banned in Jordan in the mid-eighties, it was still being used heavily until Dec. 31, 1994 to combat flies carrying malaria, especially in the Jordan Valley area. DDT has an accumulative effect in the body which can last for up to 30 years" said Ms.

Rajeh. "It is stored in fat and its only way out is through breast milk."

In a sample of 411 Jordanian women from the northern and central Jordan Valley, Amman, Zarqa and Irbid, 84 per cent of these women were found to have a "higher than normal percentage of chlorinated pesticides in their breast milk," according to Ms. Rajeh, whose 1994 M.A. thesis dealt with the issue of pesticide residues in breast milk.

"What most people do not understand is that I am not asking women not to breast feed their babies but asking the government to set up centres where breast milk could be examined and breast feeding times limited in accordance with the results of these tests," explained Ms. Rajeh.

Mr. Khasawneh pointed the finger of blame on farmers for misusing pesticides and not adhering to the instructions on pesticide containers and by disrespecting proposed safety times (the interval between spraying and harvesting).

But farmers present at the symposium claimed no provision on the government's part had been made for agricultural advice, and that labels on pesticide containers were not translated into Arabic.

Mr. Khasawneh, in turn, denied those accusations, stressing that the Ministry of Agriculture does provide farmers with help from agricultural engineers, and distributes pamphlets and instructions on the use of pesticides, but that farmers continue to misuse the chemical product.

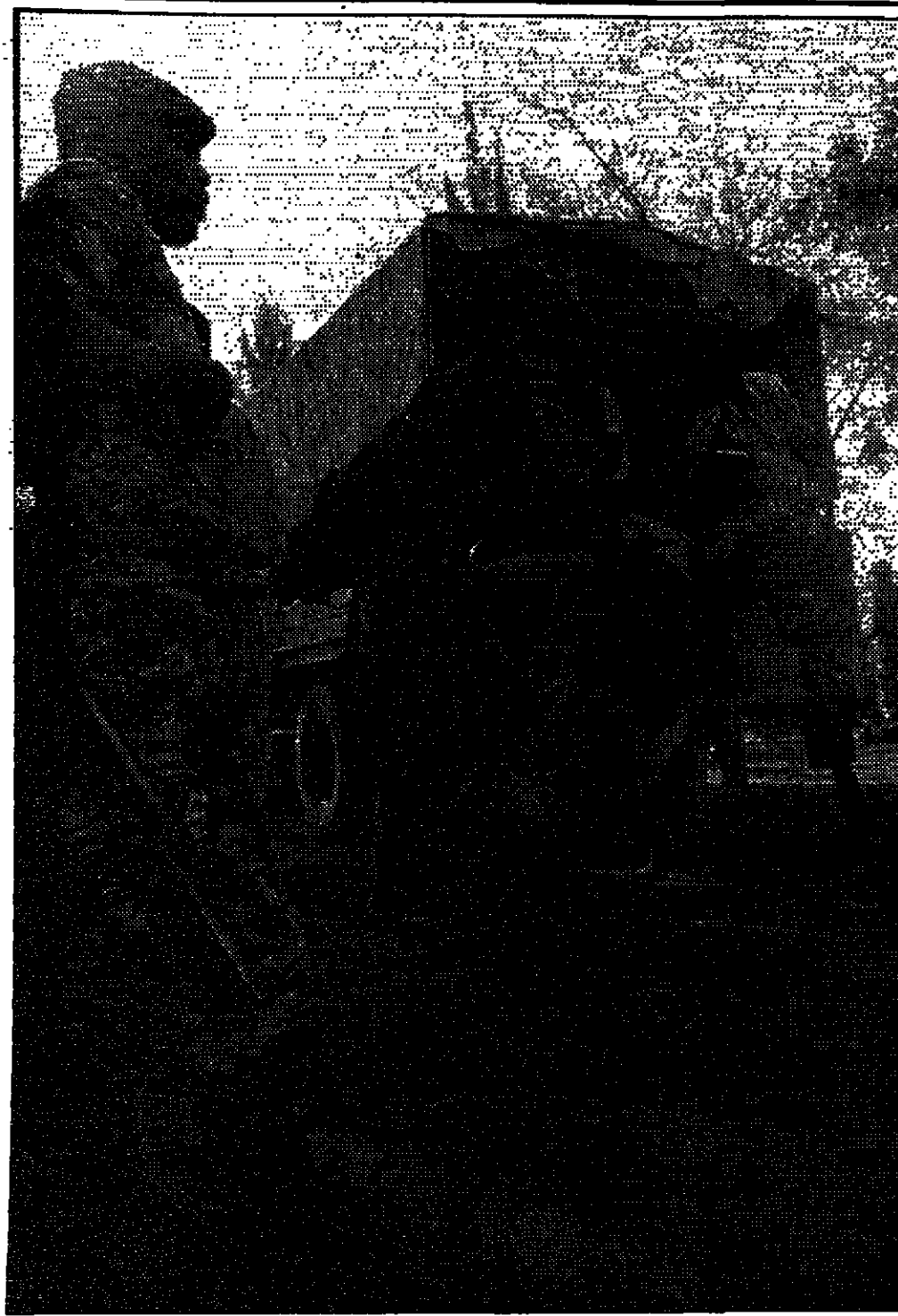
"Laws passed are not being implemented, and punishments take the form of light fines and virtually no prison time," said Iman Moqbel, a lawyer formerly with the Jordan Environmental Society.

"And unless there were proven cases of mass poisoning, proven cases of food manufacturing or storage near pesticides, or proven cases of pesticide dumping in drinking water, lawsuits against such abuses are very difficult to pursue, and culprits are very hard to pin down."

"We need harsher and more rigorous punitive actions taken by the government to deter farmers from overusing pesticides and slowly killing people and polluting the environment," said Ms. Moqbel.

MARKET PRICES

Item	Price
Wheat (Mukammal)	100
Wheat (Small)	90
Wheat (Large)	80
Wheat (Small)	70
Wheat (Large)	60
Wheat (Small)	50
Wheat (Large)	40
Wheat (Small)	30
Wheat (Large)	20
Wheat (Small)	10
Wheat (Large)	0



Rwandan refugees being expelled from refugee camps around the Goma area get into trucks that will take them to the border under the watchful eye of a Zairian soldier Tuesday (Reuters photo)

Zaire expels thousands of Rwanda refugees; 60,000 flee

GOMA, Zaire (R) — Zairean troops expelled thousands of Rwandan refugees Tuesday, forcing 60,000 others to flee their camps amid reports of looting, beatings and rapes.

At Mugunga Camp near the Zairean town of Goma, soldiers resumed deportations by rounding up refugees at random at gunpoint, forcing them onto buses and trucks and dumping them on the border with Rwanda.

Roadsides swarmed with men, women and children preparing to leave and U.N. officials at the scene said the situation was increasingly tense after troops robbed and beat up refugees.

People started throwing stones at a young Zairean man they accused of trying to loot. "Thief, thief," they shouted. But the soldiers were ebullient, clearly pleased to see the refugees go.

In Bukavu town south of Goma, deportations were stepped up Tuesday, the third day of expulsions, with 2,900 taken to the border and 8,000 en route to a crossing to Cyangugu, Rwanda.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman Peter Kessler said up to 60,000 Rwandan and Burundian refugees fled without food from Luberizi, Runingo and Kagaga camps near the town of Uvira into mountains and nearby villages.

"We are very worried

because there is no safe water in the mountains and they will soon begin to get sick. Apparently some refugees have fled from other camps in the area to escape the Zairean operation but we don't have exact numbers," he said.

A total of 6,700 refugees were expelled by Zairean troops on Monday in an operation Zairean authorities said would continue until the United Nations took responsibility for the return of the estimated one million Rwandan refugees in eastern Zaire.

U.N. officials said 3,400 were forced out on Tuesday morning and thousands more were on their way from camps around Goma, Bukavu and Uvira forced back to both Rwanda and Burundi.

More than 200 refugees were forced out by Zaire on Saturday.

U.N. staff were harassed by Zairean troops at Mugunga Tuesday and aid workers left the camp, sealed off since Monday.

"The Zaireans seem to be more brutal this time. They've already started looting and beating people," said an official.

Seven refugees with injuries were transferred from Mugunga Camp Hospital to Goma. Sporadic gunfire was heard in the camp overnight and aid workers reported gunshot wounds to several refugees.

Zaire expelled 1981

Rwandan Hutu refugees

from Mugunga Monday — nearly half of them children apparently because they are the easiest for soldiers to scoop up and put on buses and trucks.

Mugunga, until Saturday home to 150,000 refugees, looked dishevelled Tuesday after refugees removed plastic sheeting from their huts and hurriedly packed the few belongings they could carry.

Some refugees were crammed on to a nearby hilltop in a bid to escape deportation and a trail of refugees moved up the hill.

U.N. officials warned of potential violence as many refugees and former Rwandan government troops in the camps refuse to return home because of fears of reprisals for last year's genocide in Rwanda of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates.

State-run Goma radio appealed Monday for businessmen to provide extra trucks and buses to speed up the expulsions.

Mr. Kessler said an old woman holds a cross Tuesday as she sits waiting to be processed by officials after having been expelled from a Rwandan refugee camp on Goma (Reuters photo)

UNHCR had received unconfirmed reports of rapes by Zairean troops of Rwandan refugee women in the camps.

He said of the more than 200 expelled Saturday only one man had been imprisoned by Rwandan authorities accused of involvement in the genocide but others were jailed for criminal activities.

The expulsions violate international law and the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan government, which took power after a rebel victory last July, has appealed for international help to deal with the influx.



Hypno-dog Oscar is missing

EDINBURGH (AFP) — Oscar, a six-year-old Labrador retriever who hypnotises people by gazing into their eyes, has gone missing at the Edinburgh fringe festival, and there's a £5,000 reward (\$8,000) for his return. "I know it's a lot of money but I just want him back," said hypnotist Hugh Lennon, whose act at the Edinburgh Fringe includes inviting imbibers to kneel in front of Oscar, look him square in the eye and be put under a trance. "He's my pet. He's not just part of the show. I've had him since he was a pup," said Mr. Lennon, 49, who said Oscar ran off as they were strolling in the meadows in Edinburgh Monday.

Religious icon used to film Greek trial of the century

ATHENS (AFP) — A private Greek television station used a religious icon to hide a camera and illegally film a trial that has gripped public attention here, local newspapers reported Tuesday. The icon representing Christ was placed, in accordance with tradition, above the judge's seat facing the attorneys' bench. It allowed the SKAI network station Monday to hide a camera that produced heavenly images for television audiences who were glued to their screens that evening. The trial has become something of a legal and domestic soap opera here with the star attractions a famous pop singer, Tolis Voskopoulou, and his ex-wife Julia. The singer has filed a suit against his ex-wife charging that she made away with four billion drachmas (\$17 million) that belonged to him.

Comaneci not dead, just getting married

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanian-born gymnast Nadia Comaneci, who scored the first perfect "10" in international competition, responded to rumours of her death by saying she was very much alive, and planning to marry. "I am not dead, I am alive, and more than that I want to marry my fiancée Bart in Bucharest next year," the 33-year-old Ms. Comaneci told reporters in Bucharest by phone from her home in Oklahoma. The Romanian daily Evenimentul Zilei Monday ran a front-page story saying it had been told Ms. Comaneci had died but had been unable to check the story before deadline.

Wine takes on 'nutrient' status

CHICAGO (R) — So many beneficial effects have been found from drinking wine in moderation that its alcoholic content may be better defined as a nutrient than a drug, a researcher said. "Ethanol increases the level of the so-called 'good' HDL cholesterol," said Linda Bisson of the University of California at Davis. In a report delivered to the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society, she said the ethanol in wine should be considered a macronutrient rather than a drug.

Math, science a hit with students

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. High school students are taking tougher courses and scoring better on math and science tests, an education department study shows. It said the percentage of high school graduates taking the department's recommended "core" courses soared to 47 from 13 in the year before the department's landmark "a nation at risk" report recommended major reforms to reverse declining academic performance. The core courses recommended in the 1983 report were four years of English, three each of science, social studies and mathematics and half a year of computer science.

Sao Tome coup leaders relinquish power

SAO TOME (AFP) — Soldiers who ousted Sao Tome and Principe's first democratically elected president a week ago relinquished power Tuesday under an amnesty deal after failing to win support at home or abroad.

Venancio De Moura, the Angolan foreign minister who helped negotiate an end to the crisis, went on national radio to announce that civilian rule had been restored in this impoverished West African state, a set of small islands which lie off the coast of Gabon.

The coup leaders agreed to hand back power to President Miguel Trovoada, who was elected in 1991 and ousted exactly one week ago.

"Thanks to understanding, good sense and a spirit of patriotism shown by all sides, it has been possible to normalise political life in Sao Tome," Mr. De Moura said.

Mr. De Moura said a memorandum had been signed between the coup leaders and the civilian authorities calling for a series of measures including a restructuring of the military, but with Mr. Tro-

voad remaining as commander in chief.

The agreement brokered by Mr. De Moura was signed by coup leader Lieutenant Quilas De Almeida and by the speaker of the national assembly, Francisco Fortunato Pires.

The accord came only a few hours after the national assembly unanimously voted to amnesty those involved in the coup, thus meeting the main condition set by the soldiers before they would relinquish power.

Mr. Trovoada was arrested and overthrown at dawn on August 15 in a bloodless coup organised by a group of officers who said they wanted to "restore order" to the island republic which won independence from Portugal in 1975.

But the coup failed to generate support here or abroad, with numerous countries condemning the putsch and suspending aid desperately needed in a destitute nation where, for example, teachers earn \$10 a month.

In early reaction, France welcomed the coup leaders' decision to restore civilian rule.

A Sao Tomean officer interviewed on Portuguese TSF radio said the coup participants would not be prosecuted.

"We signed a document saying there will be neither persecution, trials nor disciplinary action against us," said sub-Lieutenant Marcal Lima.

He said the mutineers had also obtained satisfaction in a dispute over the make-up of the presidential guard. "The personal guard will continue to be trained by officers from Sao Tome and Principe and not by foreign soldiers as the president wanted," Lt. Lima said.

Mr. Trovoada was expected to return to the presidential palace on Tuesday. After being held at army headquarters he was moved to an official government residence on Friday after the opening of the negotiations.

In his statement, the Angolan mediator thanked France, Portugal, the European Union, the United Nations and Gabon for their "support" during the talks.

Uganda army kills rebel chief

KAMPALA (R) — Ugandan troops killed 13 Christian fundamentalist rebels, including one of their commanders, in a pitched battle, the state-owned New Vision newspaper said Tuesday.

It was the first major victory in months by government forces over the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which wants Uganda run in strict accordance with the Bible's Ten Commandments.

New Vision said Major Oryem Lagwari, second-in-command to LRA leader Joseph Kony, was among those killed in the fighting at Obolokome, near the northern town of Kitgum, on Friday evening.

New Vision said the rebels numbered more than 400 and had attacked from southern Sudan. It said the rebels wore Sudanese army uniforms.

Sudan has denied giving bases and arms to the LRA. Residents have accused the army of responding slowly to rebel attacks, saying troops often arrive hours after the LRA leave.

The LRA has fought President Yoweri Museveni's government since 1987.

Kashmir hostages believed alive — officials

SRINAGAR (AFP) — Indian officials said Tuesday they believed that four Westerners held hostage for more than a month by Muslim militants in Kashmir were alive and unharmed, adding that they were in touch with the captors.

"We have sufficient reason to believe that all four hostages are safe, hale and hearty," official spokesman K.B. Jindal told reporters here.

"We are in touch with them (the captors), mostly by phone. But there are other methods including intermediaries," he said, amid reports that the separatist group holding the hostages would release photographs and tape recordings of them soon.

Mr. Jindal denied reports by a Western news agency last week that the hostages — an American, two Britons and a German — may have been killed.

A fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, was beheaded in the first week of August.

"We outrightly deny the story," he said. "The authorities have cross-checked the report through its usual channels and have

definite information that the hostages are safe."

Sources close to officials said the shadowy Al Faran militant group, believed to be associated with the Harkat-ul-Ansar group which kidnapped two Britons last year, would "soon" deliver the latest photographs of the captives.

The spokesman, however, ruled out meeting the Al Faran's demands to free 15 jailed Muslim militants in return for the release of the tourists, saying the "country cannot succumb to terrorism."

He said Muslim separatists in Kashmir had kidnapped 1,750 people in the past five years and killed about half of the hostages.

Mr. Jindal said the government had in the past released detained Muslim militants "only a few times" to secure the freedom of hostages.

But sources said the authorities on Tuesday had shifted two of the jailed rebels on Al Faran's list from a New Delhi prison to the northern state of Punjab adjoining Kashmir.

The Al Faran on Friday threatened to kill the hostages — Britons Paul

Wells and Keith Mangan, American Donald Hutchings and German Dirk Hasert — if the Indian army launched a commando rescue operation.

Mr. Ostro's gruesome murder caused resentment across Kashmir, where a forum of 30 Muslim separatist groups and political parties observed a day's general strike earlier this month to protest the kidnapping.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, since 1989 when the guerrillas stepped up a campaign against Indian rule.

India accuses Pakistan of fomenting trouble in the divided state, Islamabad, which administers the southern third of Kashmir, denies the allegations but extends moral and diplomatic support to the bloody campaign.

The two south Asian rivals have fought two wars over Kashmir since their independence from British colonial rule in 1947.

Last bodies removed from worst Indian rail crash as death toll reaches 350

NEW DELHI (R) — Rescue workers were extracting the last bodies on Tuesday from India's worst ever rail crash, which claimed some 350 lives and has raised questions about the frequency of such accidents.

Spraying chemicals to disinfect rotting flesh in the monsoon humidity, rescuers used blow torches to cut through the twisted metal of the final coaches where bodies still lay mangled from the high-speed collision early Sunday morning.

Heavy-duty cranes lifted debris of the Kalindi express, struck from behind after it hit a cow and was forced to halt.

The next train, the Purushottam express, ploughed into it at 100

kilometres an hour.

Press reports agreed some 350 people had died in the crash, with many more lying critically injured in hospitals around the scene at Firozabad, 200 kilometres from the capital. Unofficial estimates suggested the eventual toll could be as high as 600.

Railway officials said it might take the rest of Tuesday to remove the last of the bodies.

Army rescue workers sifted through the twisted steel along the railway embankment, collecting severed limbs, piling them on stretchers with other human remains and bearing them away.

Mounds of corpses were piled up outside the hospital in Firozabad, as officials wearing linen masks against

the stench tried to arrange the bodies for identification.

The hospital backyard was converted into a makeshift open-air morgue where rows of corpses, many badly disfigured, lay under strips of cloth on the muddy earth.

Groups of weeping relatives wandered among the bodies.

"The shocking train accident... has come in the wake of several other accidents suggesting that there is something grievously wrong with the railway system in India," the Indian Express newspaper commented on Tuesday.

It was the third major train accident this year and there have been more than 30 serious crashes in the past decade.

"There is little to indicate that the government sees the

decade's worst train accident as anything more than an embarrassment," the Pioneer newspaper said.

"It is this aspect of the entire episode that is most worrying in so far as it leaves little room for hope that corrective action to prevent the recurrence of such tragedies... will be taken."

Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao blamed the crash on human error and told parliament that heads would roll if he were given wrong information by the railway ministry.

Mr. Rao faced demands for his resignation during an angry six-hour debate on the crash in parliament on Monday.

Mr. Rao, who took charge of the railway portfolio last week when the minister went to London for medical

treatment, ordered an inquiry into the accident.

Senior railway officials said a signalman had given the Purushottam express the green light without checking whether the other train had left his sector, and the Kalindi express guard failed to switch on a flashing light to indicate his train had stopped after hitting the cow.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted Northern Railways General Manager V.K. Aggarwal as saying the signalman who gave the green light to the express had fled.

India's previous worst train accident was in 1981 when 270 people were killed after a train plunged into the Bhagmati river in the northern state of Bihar.

MPs boycott parliament over renaming main New Delhi business district

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Enraged Indian opposition MPs boycotted parliament here Tuesday over a government proposal to rename New Delhi's main commercial district after slain Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her son Rajiv Gandhi.

Lawmakers accused Home Minister Shankarrao Chavan in the upper house of parliament of "tinkering" with history, before staging a walkout over a proposal to rename Connaught Place, a circular shopping centre lined by colonnades.

"This is a disservice to yourself, history and to those who you think you are doing a service to," said Inder Kumar Gujral, a former foreign minister and leader of the Janata Dal (People's Party).

V.K. Malhotra of the main

opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People's Party, BJP) said there were innumerable public places named after the Gandhis, India's first political family, who were leaders of the Congress (I) Party.

New Delhi's international airport is named after Indira Gandhi, who was assassinated in October 1984.

Connaught Place was named after the Duke of Connaught who came to India to attend the Delhi Durbar in 1911, when the seat of the British raj was transferred from the eastern port city of Calcutta.

Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in 1991 by a suicide bomber, while campaigning for elections which could have again made him prime minister.

EDINBURGH (AP) — A six-year-old Labrador retriever who disappeared from his owner's home in Edinburgh last week is missing at the Edinburgh fringe festival, and the reward of £5,000 for his return is still on offer. "I know it's him," said Hugh Lennon, the owner, who is a musician and a member of the band "The Lemonheads". "He's my best friend and he's been with me since he was a pup," said Mr. Lennon, who said Oscar had been seen in the meadows in Edinburgh on Monday.

Religious icon
to film Greek life
of the century

ATHENS (AP) — A private Greek television station used a religious icon as a camera and illegally broadcast it, drawing attention here, local papers reported. The icon representing the Virgin Mary was placed, in accordance with tradition, above the judge's seat facing the jury's bench. It allowed SKAI network station to day to hide a camera produced heavily for television and who were glued to screens that evening. A trial has become some of a legal and domestic opera here with the attractions a famous singer, Tolis Voskopoulos, and his ex-wife, the singer has filed a lawsuit against his ex-wife, claiming she made a four billion drachma (million) that belongs to him.

Comaneci not
dead, just getting
married

BUCHAREST (AP) — Romanian-born gymnast Nadia Comaneci, who scored the first perfect 10 in international competition, responded to rumors of her death by saying she was very much alive, and was planning to marry. "I am alive, and I am happy," she said. "I want to marry, and I want to have a family. I am not a gymnast anymore, but I am a woman." Comaneci, 33, was born in Romania and moved to the United States in 1976. She won four Olympic gold medals and a silver medal in 1976. She is now a coach and a television personality.

Wine takes on
'nutrient' status

CHICAGO (AP) — Set-back effects have been found from drinking in moderation that its alcohol content may be defined as a nutrient. A researcher at the University of Illinois at Chicago found that the so-called "good" cholesterol, or HDL, is increased by drinking wine. The study was published in the journal "Lipids".

Math, science
with students

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. High school students are taking better tests and scoring better on math and science tests, according to a report from the Department of Education. The report said that the percentage of students who scored at the "proficient" level in math increased from 1990 to 1994. The percentage of students who scored at the "proficient" level in science also increased. The report also said that the percentage of students who scored at the "basic" level in math increased, while the percentage of students who scored at the "basic" level in science decreased.



An activist of the pro-communist Working Russia political movement stands with a red Soviet flag, portrait of the dictator Josef Stalin and a poster during a demonstration in Moscow Tuesday (Reuters photo)

Chernomyrdin bloc suffers blow in regional poll

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's Our Home is Russia political bloc appeared shaken Tuesday as the final results of a regional poll confirmed the crushing defeat of one of its leading lights. Eduard Rossel was elected governor of Sverdlovsk region in the Urals, capturing almost twice as many votes as incumbent Alexei Strakhov, head of the local branch of Our Home is Russia, the central electoral commission said. Mr. Strakhov won only 32.07 per cent of Sunday's vote against 59.9 per cent for Mr. Rossel, a former secessionist known as "the Father of the Urals Republic." Many Russian political commentators described the result as a major setback for Our Home is Russia ahead of Dec. 17 parliamentary elections, although Mr. Chernomyrdin said the vote in the Urals should not be viewed as a dress rehearsal. "I would rather not link these two factors," Mr. Chernomyrdin told reporters during a visit to Siberia's Altai region. "It turned out that his (Rossel's) election programme better met the voters' interests. We should take this factor into account in our canvassing campaign," ITAR-TASS news agency quoted him as saying. Mikhail Leontyev of the Sevodaya newspaper said Mr. Strakhov lost the hard-fought election despite having the Sverdlovsk regional administration and central authorities behind him. "One can only conclude that the potential of the 'Party of Power' as demonstrated today does not guarantee either political or material results for the people they put forward," he wrote. The authoritative Izvestia daily passed a similar verdict, saying the "Party of Power" — as Our Home is Russia is often called — had suffered its first defeat. "The first electoral setback, which Our Home is Russia bled last Sunday, has turned out to be lumpy," wrote the business newspaper Kommersant daily. Mr. Rossel's victory was also a blow to president Boris Yeltsin, who sacked the ethnic German in 1993 after he tried to set up a Urals republic with greater autonomy from Moscow. The Sverdlovsk region is Mr. Yeltsin's home and a major political power base. "I would not extrapolate this result for the whole of Russia because this is a very specific region," presidential spokesman Sergei Medvedev said. Mr. Chernomyrdin said the centre-right Our Home is Russia bloc, created with the blessing of Mr. Yeltsin, was established only recently in Sverdlovsk, a heavy industrial region dotted with defence sector enterprises. The bloc was set up as one of the possible pillars of a two-party system that would squeeze out extremists, but it has trailed the front-running Communist Party in opinion polls, sometimes by a long way. To make matters worse, the second pillar of the envisioned system — a centre-left bloc headed by lower house of parliament speaker Ivan Rybkin — has failed to muster significant support. Most commentators regard Mr. Rossel's victory as a warning to Moscow that the issue of regional autonomy could play an important role in December's elections.

Russia vows not to let Argun siege hinder peace talks with Chechens

ARGUN (AFP) — Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin vowed not to let the fragile Chechen peace process be derailed as Russian special forces Tuesday crushed a violent separatist uprising in the town of Argun. As the special forces withdrew from the town after the worst fighting in the republic since a ceasefire in June, Mr. Chernomyrdin said during a visit to Siberia that peace talks with Chechen rebels would continue. "We cannot stop the process and we will not stop it. Those responsible for organising provocations in Chechnya will pay a heavy price," he was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency. Between 200 and 400 Chechen independence fighters led by a local warlord had occupied the police headquarters and other buildings Sunday, calling on Russian forces in Chechnya to withdraw. The police HQ was eventually stormed by Russian Omon special forces after an artillery and air attack, but the building was empty, the Chechens having escaped. Coupled with a Russian air attack last week quelling a nascent uprising in Achkoy-Martan 60 kilometres west of the capital Grozny, however, it showed again that, despite talk of peace, force is still an easy option. Alawdi Khamzatov, the warlord who led the Argun siege, claimed he was named military commander of the town 15 kilometres east of the capital by Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev. Mr. Dudayev is still a key player in Chechnya because he controls a large number of separatist fighters who refuse to implement a military accord signed between Russian and Chechen negotiators on July 30. Chechen chief of staff Aslan Maskhadov, who signed the accord after weeks of negotiations, controls only around 60 per cent of the rebels, Russian delegation head Vyacheslav Mikhailov told Interfax. The accord was based on Chechens handing over their weapons in exchange for Russian troop withdrawal, but the only disarmament so far has been in symbolic ceremonies in hill villages. The Russians meanwhile have not seriously begun to withdraw, apart from an announcement last week of the departure of a unit from Vedeno in the south of Chechnya and the transfer of soldiers from combat zones to the plains. The accord also formalised a ceasefire agreed on June 20 and an exchange of prisoners. Mr. Maskhadov branded the incident in Argun as "provocation," but did not rule out the possibility of Russian secret service involvement. In a communiqué in Grozny, he said "elements of both parties" were involved. The military situation is even more fragile in the absence of an agreement on the key question of Chechnya's status, either as an independent republic or as part of the Russian Federation. Meanwhile a three-man team of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which chaired the talks, arrived in Grozny to meet both sides. It came after a meeting Tuesday of the commission monitoring the military accord was cancelled. Witnesses said the Chechens arrived 15 minutes late but the Russians had walked out by then. Interfax news agency, citing the Russian army, said up to 80 rebels had died in Argun — although witness accounts put it much lower — and just one Russian soldier.

France urges Australia, NZ restraint over N-tests

PARIS (Agencies) — France cautioned Australia and New Zealand Tuesday to keep their condemnation of planned French nuclear testing in the South Pacific to the level of verbal criticism of China for its recent tests. Paris reckons the two countries have already been unfairly critical of its planned seven or eight tests, from September to May in French Polynesia, and fears that the row could degenerate into a sanctions war. "French authorities have let Canberra and Wellington know that they would ill understand if Australian and New Zealand reactions to French tests were stronger than those registered against recent nuclear tests," the foreign ministry said. Canberra and Wellington called in the Chinese envoys to the two countries after Beijing's second test in three months last Thursday. Australia lodged "a stern rebuke" while New Zealand said it was "most aggrieved". Both stopped at verbal protests. France hopes "for reactions of at least comparable restraint regarding the forthcoming French tests", the two-sentence French ministry statement said. It did not mention China by name. Earlier Tuesday, Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating blasted France and China for showing "disregard" for worldwide protests in carrying out nuclear tests despite an international moratorium in place since 1992. Speaking in his capacity as acting head of the South Pacific Forum, Mr. Keating said the 15-member body was considering demanding a U.N. resolution aimed at putting "pressure" on Paris and Beijing over the issue. He specifically condemned "China's latest test carried out last week." "China has once again shown disregard for international opposition to nuclear testing," he said in a statement issued by the Australian embassy here. "China and other nuclear weapons states must come to terms with the imminent ban on nuclear testing for all time." "Forum countries, along with others, are considering a suitable resolution to be put before the U.N. general assembly to pressure China and France to reconsider their testing programmes," he added. French President Jacques Chirac has sparked worldwide condemnation with his decision to order eight nuclear tests to be carried out on the Mururoa Atoll in the South Pacific from next month. China was the only one of the five nuclear powers — the others are Britain, France, Russia and the United States — to ignore a self-imposed moratorium in place since 1992. The South Pacific Forum groups Australia, New Zealand, and 13 independent countries in the region. It meets annually and has a rotating presidency. The last meeting was in Australia, and it gathers next month in Papua New Guinea. Greenpeace protest yacht arrives off test site. A Greenpeace protest yacht arrived Tuesday at the 12-mile (20-kilometre) exclusion zone around Mururoa Atoll in Polynesia, where France plans to restart nuclear testing in September. Greenpeace spokesman John Walters said the 40-foot (12-metre) sail boat and its five crew members will wait in waters off the Atoll for a flotilla of at least another 16 vessels to arrive to protest against the test series. Mr. Walters said the Vega, which has made several protest voyages to the Atoll in past years, arrived early amid speculation that France might start the tests ahead of time. It joins a Danish fiberglass-and-steel replica of a Viking ship, the Bifrost, which has been sailing the area around Mururoa since early July. France has attracted widespread international criticism for its plan to conduct seven or eight underground nuclear blasts starting after Sept. 1 through next May. Greenpeace fears the blasts could harm the region's fragile ocean environment. They are also worried that radiation trapped from a long series of previous blasts could eventually seep into the sea. France maintains there's no danger. It argues that the tests are necessary for the maintenance of its nuclear arsenal, and has promised the test series will be its last. Despite this, countries such as Australia fear the test plan could jeopardize negotiations for an international Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. In Bonn Tuesday, members of Greenpeace held a demonstration outside Chancellor Helmut Kohl's office urging him to oppose French President Jacques Chirac's resumption of nuclear tests. About 15 members of the environment protection campaign body parked a truck outside the office bearing a loudspeaker system over which they played a version of the traditional French song "Freje Jacques". "Helmut Kohl, are you still asleep? Stop the experiments, no more tests," this version of the song went. The Greenpeace demonstrators maintained that the planned tests would be contrary to European law. The protestors face prosecution as demonstrations are banned within the precincts of the Bonn government buildings, a police spokesman said. Protestors launch boycott of French wine. In London, British opponents of France's plan to resume nuclear testing Tuesday launched a boycott of French wine aiming to hit MR. Chirac "where it really hurts." Central to the boycott is a 30-second advertising spot featuring a sniper with a scoped rifle taking aim at a customer at an outdoor cafe, shattering, in slow-motion, his glass of wine, which leaves the man awash in blood-like red. "Drop a bomb on Chirac's plan," says the voice-over. "Hit him where it really hurts. Say 'Non.' Stop buying French wine."

Chile leader to curb armed forces' political power

SANTIAGO (R) — Chilean President Eduardo Frei proposed changes to the military-drafted 1980 constitution on Monday to weaken the political influence of the country's powerful armed forces. The move followed a series of bruising confrontations between the government and military over human rights cases that have exposed the limits of Mr. Frei's control over the armed forces. "Recent events have made it more evident than ever that some institutions are far from working appropriately and presidential authority is restricted," MR Frei said in a televised speech. Elected in 1993, Mr. Frei nominally controls the military as commander-in-chief, but the real power is held by army chief and former dictator General Augusto Pinochet, whom Mr. Frei is barred by law from firing. The main change to the constitution will be the abolishment of eight military-appointed seats in the Chilean senate when their current terms end in 1997, MR Frei said. Mr. Frei also proposed legal changes to give the president the power to remove senior officers, including generals and admirals. Although he is "supreme commander" of the armed forces, Mr. Frei can only ask military chiefs to send an errand officer into retirement if he wants him sacked. Other proposals include reducing the military's power over two state councils. Mr. Frei will also present new proposals to uncover the fate of 600 leftists who disappeared while a military government ruled Chile for 17 years until 1990. Trials of human rights violations under the military regime have become the most frequent point of friction between the government and the armed forces. All measures will require congressional approval, which could prove an uphill battle as the military senators and the right-wing opposition hold the balance of power in the senate. The military's lingering power in politics has often been a point of embarrassment for Chile's rulers as they seek to project a more modern image for the country, which has a booming economy and is due to join NAFTA next year.

Security force searching Karachi for ethnic militants

KARACHI (AP) — About 4,000 paramilitary rangers swept through Karachi's turbulent central district Tuesday searching for ethnic militants, who have terrorised this port city in recent months, authorities said. The security force cordoned off dozens of blocks in the lower-class lines area neighbourhood refusing to allow residents to leave or visitors to enter, eyewitnesses said. Residents, contacted on telephone by the Associated Press, said the paramilitary rangers were harassing people, rounding up at least one male member of every family and putting them on buses destined for a nearby school. They said most of the men returned home several hours later, but some reportedly were still missing and believed to have been arrested. Interior Minister Nasrullah Babar said police and paramilitary rangers have been ordered into several neighbourhoods of Karachi in an attempt to flush out militants of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), a powerful ethnic and linguistic group. Mohajirs claim they have been discriminated against since coming to Pakistan from India after the Asian subcontinent gained its independence from Britain in 1947. In recent months the largest faction of the MQM, led by 39-year-old Altaf Hussain, has been locked in a ferocious battle with Karachi security force and rival factions. The violence, that has virtually crippled Pakistan's largest city of 12 million people, has claimed nearly 800 lives in the last three months. Gun battles have paralysed entire neighbourhoods, dozens of alleged police informants have been tortured and killed and nearly 100 police and rangers have been gunned down. On Monday two police officers were killed and several other officers were wounded in a drive-by shooting in an eastern suburb of Karachi. By midday Tuesday four people had been killed in separate shooting incidents in Karachi. Mr. Babar said police and rangers have been conducting house-to-house searches in neighbourhoods believed to be controlled by Mr. Hussain's MQM. The government's crackdown has drawn criticism from international human rights groups as well as residents of some of the hardest hit areas. In a recent report Amnesty International accused Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government of committing "serious human rights violations." "During police sweeps hundreds of people were reportedly arrested... Some were blindfolded and beaten then released within a short period but an unknown number of people continue to be held," the report said. On Tuesday another resident of Lines Area, Mohammad Aslam, told the AP that his brother-in-law volunteered to go with the police when they raided his home. "He was taken to the school and was allowed to leave after three hours, but at least 15 others were kept there and they were badly beaten," said Mr. Aslam. Police and rangers denied the allegations. A spokesman for the rangers, who refused to be identified, said people were being freed after they proved their identity.

Judge sees no firm evidence against Gonzalez

MADRID (R) — The judge investigating Spain's "dirty war" against Basque separatists has found no proof Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez is criminally responsible but believes statements linking him to it are "credible". The newspaper El Pais Tuesday published High Court Judge Baltasar Garzon's exposition of the evidence, made as he decided whether there was a case for the premier and three other politicians to answer in Spain's Supreme Court. Mr. Garzon decided refer the case to the Supreme Court July 28 and the court has since ruled itself competent to handle the case. The publication of his exposition gave Spaniards their first idea of the strength of the evidence. The case turns on how much Mr. Gonzalez knew about the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Groups (GAL) which killed 27 people and kidnapped others between 1983-87.

Sri Lanka troops kill 15 Tiger rebels, news agency reports

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan troops have killed between 15 and 20 Tamil Tiger guerrillas and captured an armaments factory in the northern rebel-held Jaffna peninsula, the national news agency said Tuesday. In a Monday offensive codenamed Operation Drag-onfire, government troops advanced six kilometres from their "forward defence localities" at Chankannai and Moolai where they met heavy resistance from Tamil Tigers, the state-run agency said, quoting senior military sources. It said the armed forces lost one soldier and 15 were wounded in the attack on the factory which made heavy mortars for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The Voice of Tigers Radio Tuesday warned refugees from fighting in the rebel-held north not to return to their homes for fear of casualties. It said the armed forces launched shelling attacks from three camps in the north Monday, killing 12 civilians and wounding 19, a claim denied by the military. Military spokesman Brigadier Sarah Munasinghe told Reuters there was "limited artillery fire" during a confrontation at Chankannai, near the sprawling Palaly airbase. He did not mention the armaments factory. "There was no shelling as such," he said in reference to the Tigers' claims. "There was limited artillery fire which we use when there is a confrontation with the terrorists." He said "heavy casualties" were inflicted on the Tigers and confirmed that three bodies had been found and at least 17 had been wounded. The LTTE are known for taking away the bodies of their dead comrades. Chankannai lies within the 78 square kilometres captured by the military during Operation Leap Forward last month and which is now "dominated" by the armed forces, Mr. Munasinghe said. He also downplayed the radio reports of casualties. "They didn't talk of their own (LTTE) casualties, their dead," he said. The radio said there was shelling from Palaly, Mathagal and the naval base of Karainagar on Karaitivu, just off the west coast of Jaffna. It also said troops had moved out from Pandatarippu south towards Sit-tankerni but had been forced to return. The radio warned refugees to stay put as protracted negotiations between the government, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the government agent for Jaffna continued in Colombo on when and how food and supply ships can resume service to the north. The relief agency Care estimates there are 300,000 displaced people in the north where food supplies are dangerously low.

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The Hebron dilemma

HEBRON IS turning out to be a major hurdle facing the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. Disagreement about the future of the city is preventing the conclusion of negotiations on the expansion of the Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank. At a time when Israeli negotiators seem ready to accept the "redeployment" of Israeli troops away from all major West Bank cities and towns, Hebron is being stubbornly excluded from the promised redeployment. The Israeli stand raises questions about what Israel hopes to achieve from its refusal to reach an acceptable agreement about the city. Is Israel using the Hebron card as a bargaining chip to be resorted to when the time comes for the determination of the status of East Jerusalem? Is it too far-fetched to think that Israel seeks to make concessions on Hebron at the end of the day in return for major Palestinian concessions on East Jerusalem?

Some Israeli zealots and religious fanatics view Hebron as one of the holiest of their holy places. It is the same tune that we have become accustomed to hearing whenever Jerusalem is mentioned. To buttress its claim to at least part of the city and its Al Ibrahimi Mosque, Israel has implanted some 400 Jewish settlers in the heart of the city and gave them a right to pray at the mosque, literally shoulder to shoulder with the Muslim worshippers. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has refused to back away on Hebron and insists on including it in the current negotiations before the two parties can head for Washington to seal their comprehensive accord on the second phase of their Oslo agreement.

It looks like there could be stalemate on this score as long as Israel adds Hebron to its list of the "non-negotiable." The Palestinian side is totally right in calling for treating Hebron equally with the other Palestinian cities and towns. This is not only a Palestinian request but an Arab and Muslim demand on which there can be no wavering neither now nor in the future. It was wrong in the first place to let few hundred Jewish settlers move in to the centre of the city and make it their home. Given the ill-feelings that still exist between Jews and Arabs, it was folly in the extreme to let this happen right from the start.

The massacre of scores of Palestinian worshippers at the Al Ibrahimi Mosque by a Jewish settler more than a year ago is a vivid example of what could happen as long as the two peoples are "mixed" together in such an irresponsible way. Instead of attempting to share or divide the city, Israel should put it entirely under Palestinian control on an equal footing with other Palestinian cities from which Israel has agreed to withdraw. The Jewish settlers should be given a choice between accepting Palestinian jurisdiction or leaving from the city altogether. There is no other viable option. Israel cannot but realise this reality and act upon it in a way that would ensure a successful conclusion of its peace talks with the Palestinians.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Monday blamed the bus explosion in occupied Jerusalem on the Israeli government and its policies against the Palestinian people. It is natural to see such violence occurring in the occupied Arab lands as long as occupation continues and atrocities are committed against the Palestinian people day and night, said the daily. The Israeli government is wrong to believe that by closing the West Bank and Gaza and by sealing off Jerusalem in the face of Arab worshippers, Israel cannot achieve security or bring about an end to violence, said the paper. Only when Israel pulls out its forces from the Arab lands and stops the practices of the settlers, and gives back to the Palestinians their rights in their lands and water and holy shrines can the chain of explosions come to an end, added the daily. The Israeli government should expect more acts of violence in the future because it continues to occupy Arab land and should realise that the closure of the Arab territories after each act can by no means prevent the resistance by Palestinians, continued the daily. The paper said that the Israelis are living an illusion that their security is ensured while their government continues to drag its feet over the implementation of the second phase of the Oslo agreement and allow the settlers to wreak havoc in the occupied Arab lands.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour said that it is unacceptable to see members of Parliament absenting themselves from sessions without due cause at a time when the nation expects the deputies to finalise debate of draft laws of national interest. Mohammad Subeishi said that seldom does a civil servant absent himself from work without permission and if he does he risks facing penalties but Parliament members escape any censure when they purposely avoid attending a Parliament session. Furthermore, said Mr. Subeishi, the public, which elected these parliamentarians to represent them before the government, has the right to know about any dereliction and which of the deputies continually and without excuse absent themselves from sessions because this will help them make a better choice in future elections, said the writer.

By Robert Waller

THREE YEARS into his presidency, Bill Clinton has finally spelled out his strategy for protecting America in the new world order. The plan — "A National Security Strategy of Engagement and Enlargement" — was released by the White House in February. The Pentagon, relieved at finally receiving some coherent direction for the post-cold war environment, was then able to frame its regional strategies in terms of the president's strategic vision. Accordingly, in May Secretary of Defence William Perry unveiled the new "United States Security Strategy for the Middle East." Both documents are useful barometers of U.S. strategic thought.

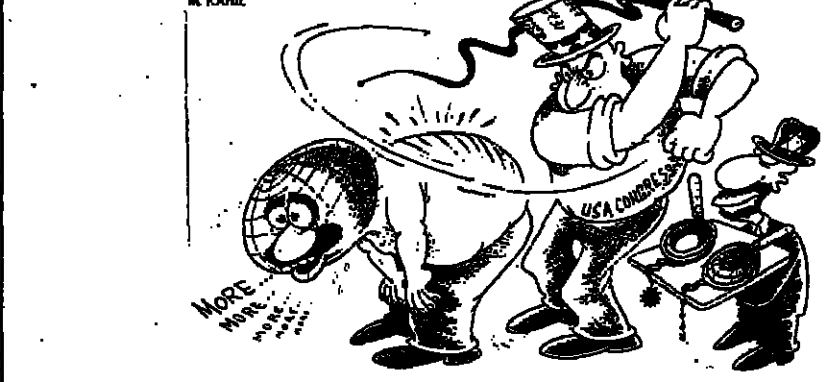
The new strategy has some commendable points. Take, for example, the Pentagon's rejection of the "clash of civilisations" argument. U.S. officials, particularly within the State Department, have been at pains to emphasise that the U.S. has no quarrel with Islam. The military's endorsement of this enlightened view should not be overlooked, particularly in the wake of NATO Secretary General Willy Claes' notorious remarks to the opposite effect. As the Pentagon sees it, "the true clash is within civilisations, between extremists and moderates." Extremism in this context is not a euphemism for hostility to Western influences; rather, it means using violence to further a political agenda.

Unlike Hollywood, the Clinton administration differentiates (in theory, if only somewhat tentatively in practice) between Islamists — Muslims who espouse Islam as a political solution — and violent Islamist extremists. America's ability to project military power into the Middle East has undergone a stunning expansion from its nadir in 1980 — when the failed hostage rescue mission in Iran became a symbol of American impotence — to the present day, when "it is not unusual" for the U.S. to have 20,000 soldiers in the Gulf. The defence department estimates that in 1980 it would have required three months to deploy a single heavy division to the Gulf. By 1990, hard-won concessions

from the Gulf states enabled the initial deployment for Desert Shield to be completed within three weeks. Agreements concluded following the Gulf war have narrowed the time frame even further. Iraq once again appeared to threaten Kuwait October 1994, the U.S. response — Operation Vigilant Warrior — moved heavy units from Georgia to Kuwait in just three days. With 20 U.S. warships patrolling the Gulf and military access agreements signed with ten Arab states, the U.S. clearly has the enlargement portion of President Clinton's strategy down cold.

Mismatch between strategy and policy
Such an increase in military capability is sobering in itself. Ever more sobering, this growth has not been paralleled by refinement of strategic vision. Careful analysis reveals disturbing mismatch between the putative strategy and actual administration policy in the Middle East.

Engagement, the flagship of Mr. Clinton's strategy, founders upon the shores of the Gulf, where American strategy is not engagement but "dual containment" of Iran and Iraq. The rationale for this abrupt volte face is never explained, although it begs the question of whether diplomatic and economic engagement is a viable strategy for protecting American interests. If so, why does it not apply in the Middle East? President Clinton asserts a willingness to enter into "an authoritative dialogue" with Iran,



The U.S.' Middle East security strategy

but America has yet to launch any meaningful diplomatic overture. If free enterprise will promote political reform in Beijing and Pyongyang, why is America pursuing the opposite tack with Tehran? Does America engage only those powers, like China, with are too powerful to contain?

Moreover, dual containment is a misnomer. Certainly American policy towards Libya, which the Pentagon lumps with Iran and Iraq as "backlash states", merits the title triple containment. If the Islamists come to power in Algeria, will U.S. policy become "quadruple containment"? One wonders if National Security Adviser Tony Lake, one of the authors of the dual containment policy, has finished exploring the exponential possibilities of his brainchild.

The crux of any security strategy is how it addresses the questions of when, where and why a state will fight to protect its interests. Secretary Perry has boiled down the White House language to "three criteria for determining whether a threat affects U.S. vital interests". The first two are straightforward enough: if it (the threat) threatens the survival of the U.S., or its key allies, or if it threatens critical U.S. economic interests. The third criterion is if a threat poses the danger of a future nuclear threat. What with threats posing dangers of further threats, one implication is clear: the Pentagon has reinvented the tautology.

Washington's policy is more forthright regarding the second criterion, critical

economic interests. The Pentagon candidly admits that the U.S. will be even more dependent upon Gulf oil early in the next century than it is at present. Thus both documents stress the importance of "maintaining the unhindered flow of oil from the Gulf to world markets at stable prices" (Pentagon wording). The White House used the more loaded phrase, "at reasonable prices". The Gulf Arabs can figure out the implications.

As for threats which pose the danger of future nuclear threats, strategists define threat as a combination of capability and intent (one in the absence of the other is merely a risk). Iran and Iraq have intent but still lack a nuclear weapons capability; Libya has neither of the two. The fact that all three states are labelled as proliferation threats rather than risks constitutes a priori justification for unilateral U.S. military action against them. Washington, not eager to repeat its experience with North Korea, is unlikely to allow the Iranian nuclear programme to reach the "some assembly required" point; even if Tehran does manage to present a fait accompli, no one believes the U.S. will merely buy out their nuclear programme as well. In describing the administration's counter-proliferation policy, the White House document asserts that America retains the capacity (and by implication, the right) "to retaliate against those who might contemplate the use of weapons of mass destruction."

Retaliation for contemplation, rather than actual usage, takes deterrence to a dangerous and fuzzy horizon. At what point will contemplation translate into a military strike? Having prescribed itself the latitude to pre-emptively attack any potential nuclear threat, can Washington resist employing such a policy, or will counter-proliferation take the form of cruise missiles over Tehran in the near future? The dramatic ramifications of this new strategy have generated little comment, so here is one worth mulling over: only one state in the Middle East has a nuclear capability — and history amply demonstrates that intentions are fickle indeed.

Middle East International.

Which are the Arab key allies?

The ambiguity is somewhat intentional. President Clinton believes America has an enduring interest in "assuring the security of Israel and our Arab friends." The Pentagon describes the U.S. commitment to Israel's security as "unshakable", for a myriad of "historic, political, and moral reasons" (the word strategic is conspicuously absent). But are all Arab friends key allies? The U.S. will intervene to protect Kuwait or Saudi Arabia, but what of Jordan, or of Egypt and Morocco, whose governments must cope with burgeoning, disenfranchised populations? American officials have generally balked at making expansive or explicit security commitments to such nations. As in the case of Algeria, they are wary of allying the U.S. with a repressive regime, thus repeating the mistakes made in Iran. This leaves some of America's friends in the lurch. On the one hand, the Pentagon paper identifies Egypt as a principal Arab partner. On the other, politicians know the American public will support a war for oil or to save Israel, but little else. Memories of Beirut and Somalia linger.

This article was written before the recent developments in June and before the U.S. pledged to stand by Jordan against any "threats".

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Middle East International.

Chinese-American relations need quiet repair

By Walter Russel Mead

NEW YORK — The downhill slide in relations between the United States and China is a dangerous development.

The friction is not the result of amateurish mistakes by America, or congressional demagoguery on Taiwan. Nor does it reflect paralysis in China over the struggle to succeed Deng Xiaoping. Something much deeper and much worse is at work: A potential clash between what the two countries perceive to be their vital interests.

Unless China breaks up after Mr. Deng dies, or suffers a Soviet-style economic implosion, tensions between the two countries seem fated to grow. This is hard for Americans to understand. No one in America wants a diplomatic confrontation, much less a war, with China.

Yes, read them stiff lectures on human rights, Americans say. After all, we criticise many countries for human rights violations. It is our national pastime. And yes, fight for our economic interests in trade negotiations. That's business. But the public seems to have no sense that a broader, deeper confrontation seems to be brewing. American diplomacy looks increasingly sinister from Beijing.

China is emerging from two centuries of weakness and humiliation. It is finally mastering Western technologies and economic ideas. Many Chinese feel that at long last they are in a position to command the respect and consideration they deserve. But, everywhere China looks, America gets in its face.

The United States welcomes the Dalai Lama and the president of Taiwan. It buries the hatchet with Hanoi and talks about "mutual interests" with the Vietnam it once loathed

and fought. It stiffens the spine of the Southeast Asian countries in their dispute with China over ownership of the potentially oil-rich Spratly Islands. It roars like a lion over human rights violations in Chinese Tibet, but squeals like a mouse about Boris Yeltsin's attack on Chechnya. It continues its security cooperation with Japan and, along with South Korea, seems determined to increase its contacts and influence in North Korea.

Not content with all this, now the United States is knocking on China's back door. American oil executives are negotiating deals and acting as de facto diplomats in Central Asia.

The more paranoid elements in the leadership in Beijing talk about American "encirclement" of China. But even levelheaded Chinese see a persistent pattern of American opposition to their legitimate aspirations and interests.

The United States lectures about free trade even as it opposes China's drive to join the World Trade Organisation. Americans don't think about history much, but the Chinese remember that American and British merchants have been lecturing China about free trade since the 1830s, when they denounced China's efforts to ban "free trade" in opium.

Now, the Chinese feel, American commercial interests are as hypocritical and self-serving as ever. China has discovered ways to make industrial goods that are competitive with American products. What does America do but whine about its trade deficit and threaten China with sanctions?

The United States discriminated against Chinese immigrants and put their children in segregated schools. The Chinese still feel that some of the moral

energy Americans devote to discussing China's shortcomings could be usefully diverted to perfecting conditions in the United States.

Americans' hostility seems more surprising to the Chinese because we were so recently so warm. In the 1970s, once President Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger broke the ice, China was a strategic partner against the Soviet Union.

The political relationship cooled off in the late 1970s, but the economic relationship steadily improved. China was every businessman's favourite emerging market, and under President George Bush the United States had relatively few complaints about Chinese trade practices.

China today is a much freer society than the place Richard Nixon visited when the Gang of Four still ruled. It is a far better place for foreigners to do business in than it was 10 years ago. So why, the Chinese wonder, are Americans so critical?

The United States has a different perspective, seeing the relationship in the context of its wider Asian policies.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, U.S. power and responsibility on the Pacific Rim grew steadily. After World War II, America assumed the same position in Asia that it held in Europe: Guaranteeing stability by ensuring that no one country became strong enough to dominate the rest. Now that the Soviet Union has disappeared, China is becoming strong enough to challenge the Pacific Rim balance of power. Already, Americans worry, it is throwing its weight around in the region.

By threatening its neighbours over the Spratly Islands and by taking a belligerent tone with Taiwan, China seems to be acting like the kind of bad neigh-

bour that the United States needs to deter.

Yet Americans also see the Communist leadership as clearly unstable. Many of China's best and brightest have been alienated by the regime. The struggle to succeed the aging Deng Xiaoping reveals the weakness of China's political institutions and the fragility of its social order.

China's record abroad is equally troubling. Even sympathetic observers think that China may not really know what it wants. Its policy lurches from confrontation to conciliation, and any extension of Chinese influence tends to have a destabilising effect.

In the circumstances, America and other countries have no choice but to treat China with caution. Growing Chinese strength worries China's neighbours, causing them to strengthen their ties with America. This worries China, which tries to parry American diplomacy and break out of the perceived encirclement. Washington responds with greater efforts, and so on.

Cycles like this can lead to wars. In the early 20th century, Britain feared Germany's growing power, and Germany feared British encirclement. Both sides lurching towards a confrontation, each sincerely convinced that it was acting defensively and from the noblest of motives.

The United States and China will have a hard time reaching an understanding. Neither country trusts the other. Their political, economic and cultural systems are so different that they have trouble understanding each other.

If China stays united and continues to grow, it will indisputably become the leader of its region. The Chinese need to learn that power does not flow from the barrel of the gun. Leadership and dictatorship are not the same thing. China needs to find ways

to avoid confrontation as it consolidates its new position. Economic advantage, political sensitivity and stable institutions can create a positive international environment for a strong, rich and united China.

Beyond this, China needs to deploy a vision of its place in the region and the world. It needs to safeguard its interests without threatening the neighbours — and without triggering American instincts of opposition.

America must also do some thinking. What is the U.S. vision for China's role in the world? How can America design a special relationship with China? How can it balance China's right to an enhanced regional profile with America's interests and commitments?

There are steps Washington can take immediately. The most important have to do with Taiwan. The one-China policy is the cornerstone of the U.S.-Chinese relationship and should be reaffirmed by a congressional resolution. Washington should refrain from responding to Chinese military manoeuvres with shows of force. And America should give its missionary instincts a rest. It has left China in no doubt about U.S. dissatisfaction with its human rights policies. It might be worth changing the subject for a while.

In the longer-term, by supporting quick Chinese membership in the World Trade Organisation on reasonably favourable terms, Washington would not only ease Chinese concerns but also engage China in a multilateral forum for discussions of trade problems.

The writer, a fellow at the World Policy Institute at the New School for Social Research in New York City, contributed this comment to The New York Times.

It occurred to me...

By Ali Kassal

Labour Pains

Labour relations in Jordan, like everything else, for that matter, have a style of their own. The foreign investor who contemplates setting up shop in this country would be well advised to learn and apply them if he wants his enterprise to prosper.

The first rule concerns recruitment. Foreigners have a silly approach where they draw organisational charts with lines all over the place, squares, titles, job descriptions, and the qualifications required for each position. This is an unadulterated waste of time. In Jordan we dispense with form and go directly to the substance. We identify the principal client (or the person whose good will is needed for the successful conclusion of a deal) and employ someone from his tribe. This practice has the advantage of sparing us the bother of screening candidates. You need only visit the personage concerned under any pretext, and nine times out of ten, he would pull a jobless relation out of a hat and attach him to your personnel.

So, now that you have your staff member, you may wonder what to do with him. After a short time in Jordan you will discover that such contemplation is a waste of mental energy. Whichever job title and responsibilities you entrust to your Jordanian employee, the result is one: You see, the 'Jordanians' thirst for knowledge is so strong that your staff will devote their entire careers to improving their minds by endlessly reading the obituary columns in the dailies, and debating the finer points of world politics. This, if the reader will pardon the digression, explains why our Arabic dailies are twice as big on working days than on weekends. Finally, comes the day when you need the return favour from your staffer's relation in high office, whereupon you invite both for a mansaf. In course of this sumptuous meal the person of consequence will digest the finer points of your proposal, and acknowledge the advisability of granting you the contract. Once this point is achieved, you can proceed to employ as many foreigners as you need to do the work involved, should the whim take you to fulfil your part of the agreement.

By now you will be wondering if the extra wages will not raise the cost of the project to uneconomic proportions. This is where Jordan's system of labour relations saves the day. People in Jordan are not expected to live off their wages. Consequently, you contract your staff (the ones that work, not the ones that bring in the business) for monthly salaries that cannot see them through a week, and make sure never to pay them in full. Consequently, these employees will live forever in the expectation of payments owed to them, and while this situation lasts, they are not likely to leave your employment. A secondary consequence is that they will start doing odd jobs on the side, using your office equipment, which, in turn, will be your moral justification for not paying them an adequate salary in the first place. It really is quite straightforward, you know.

Westerners often wonder why we do not employ people qualified to do the job required, make sure that they do it, and pay them an adequate salary for doing it. That's Westerners for you. They throw their weight around with no due regard for the finer subtleties of our way of life.

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Features

Apocalypse now — or never? French wonder what nuke tests will do

By William J. Kole
The Associated Press

PARIS — In nightmarish detail, Pierre Vincent describes the cataclysmic chain reaction he thinks France could trigger by setting off a nuclear test blast under an island in the South Pacific.

In his doomsday scenario, the shock wave topples a brittle undersea volcano. That triggers a tidal wave that tears open the sea floor and unleashes vast amounts of radioactivity, forever spoiling a tropical paradise. "C'est impossible, scoffs Yves Galland. He's convinced that detonating atomic weapons a half-mile below the surface of coral-encrusted Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia will release no more radiation than what's already in the Paris subway."

That gulf between Mr. Vincent, a respected geologist, and Mr. Galland, a cabinet minister, underscores the debate now polarising the French. Just what will happen when France sets off the first of eight planned blasts next month on Mururoa, southeast of Hawaii? Apocalypse now? Or never?

Paris these days is a nuclear cafe buzzing with a divisive test talk. "Reports contradict each other, experts oppose experts," the newspaper L'Est Republicain gumbled in an editorial this week. "One says white: No health hazard. The other says black: Watch out for radioactive leaks."

France says seven or eight blasts are needed to develop computer simulations that will make further testing unnecessary, and has promised to sign a global test ban treaty next year.



Sacked French Archbishop and social activist Jacques Gailot (left) and leader of Tahiti's opposition Tavini Huiraatira party Oser Temaru hold each other in front of Greenpeace's Rainbow Warrior while taking part in protests against France's plans to conduct nuclear tests in the Pacific starting in September (AFP photo)

President Jacques Chirac, who announced in June he would break a three-year-old testing moratorium, insists the tests will pose "no ecological harm." Trying to quell an international outcry — and counter French television's misleading use of a mushroom cloud to symbolise the tests — France issued a report this month that makes it sound as though exploding a warhead underground is about as seismically exciting as lighting up a Gauloise cigarette.

The report said the world's three primary sources of artificial radiation are atmospheric nuclear weapons tests, major nuclear accidents and byproducts of nuclear energy production — not the type of underground testing France wants to resume.

After 30 years of underground tests, "the percentage of radionuclides in French Polynesia is less than that of France or northern Europe," said Gen. Michel Boicau, director of France's nuclear test centre.

Yet many scientists disagree on what new tests will do, even though the French government has offered to let them scrutinise the test site.

Fearing that a test accident could leak radioactive material into the ocean, 80 scientists from around the world have signed a call by the Greenpeace ecology group for an immediate environmental study. And UNESCO, the U.N. Cultural Agency, has warned that little is known about the long-term effects of such blasts.

"The sites have become an unregulated dump for very strong radioactive waste," said Dr. Paul Johnston of Greenpeace's research laboratory in Exeter, England.

France has set off 204 nuclear blasts since 1960, when President Charles de Gaulle brought the country into the atomic age. France stopped testing above ground in 1974 and bored a test tunnel beneath Mururoa, where it has conducted 138 underground blasts.

Mr. Vincent, of the Centre for Volcanic Research in Clermont-Ferrand in Southern France, contends all that nuclear pounding has fractured the atoll and conditions are ripe for disaster. He fears that renewed testing could collapse part of Mururoa's long-extinct undersea volcano and expose radiation meant to stay in the bowels of the Earth.

"It could lead to very strong radioactive pollution," he said. Not a chance, contend others in the scientific community.

"Done correctly, the environmental effects are negligible," said Chuck McWilliam, operations director for the U.S. Department of Energy's Nevada nuclear test site, who has monitored Russia's underground test programme.

"When the device goes off it melts the Earth around it and forms a poll that solidifies like glass, and 99.99 per cent of the contaminants stay there," he said. "It may put fissures in the floor of the sea, but it's not going to release anything measurable."

Scientists in Australia and New Zealand — where test opposition has been fiercest — said much the same thing in a report this week that concluded any health risks "likely would be small."

Even so, there is anecdotal evidence suggesting numerous birth defects and certain cancers among islanders living near the test site. Hans Veecken, of the charity Doctors Without Borders, writes in issue of the British Medical Journal that children are being born without an anus.

Many scientists agree that France's insistence on a final round of tests has jeopardised efforts to get the nuclear powers to sign a test ban treaty by the end of 1996. France itself admits that some of the tests are to try out a new warhead.

That may be the biggest reason for Mr. Chirac to reconsider, says the international society of doctors for the environment, a group representing physicians and scientists from France and 64 other countries.

New tests "are incompatible with a new world order where people are fighting to assure conditions for a lasting and peaceful life on the Earth," it said.

France's plans to conduct nuclear tests in the Pacific starting in September (AFP photo)

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Pelletreau briefs King

(Continued from page 1)

undermine its economic interests with its one-time largest export market.

The King has rejected reports that the U.S. was pressuring Jordan to sever its links with Iraq and said Washington had not requested Amman to do anything in this regard.

President Clinton has pledged that the U.S. would defend Jordan against any Iraqi military threat. Baghdad has rejected out of hand Washington's suggestion that Iraq pose a threat to Jordan as a result of the granting of asylum to Gen. Hassan and described it as an American "hallucination."

Iraq's government-guided media have scoffed at what Baghdad sees as U.S. attempts to undermine Jordanian-Iraqi relations.

"U.S. efforts to sabotage our relations with Jordan are sterile and ridiculous and nobody can believe that Iraq has massed troops on the border with Jordan," said the Al Thawra newspaper, the mouthpiece of the ruling Arab Socialist Baathist Party. (The U.S. has spoken only of a perceived Iraqi threat to Jordan and did not make any reference to any troop movement near the border with the Kingdom.)

"Iraq is always keen to develop its relations with Jordan because it is conscious that Washington wants to sow discord and sabotage

Jordan weighing its options

(Continued from page 1)

said in an article published last week that by allowing Washington to provide protection to Jordan in case it needed it, "the Jordanian Monarch handed Clinton a free chance to show, once more, how tough the American president can be on Iraq."

Scepticism remains among those Jordanians who defend the policy of non-interference and who cite a long list of reasons why Jordan should do nothing at the present, arguing that maintaining the status quo would better serve the Kingdom's real interests.

Proponents of continued neutrality argue that Jordan cannot lose if it remains steadfast in its policy of non-interference, a policy that they say has been accepted by friends and foes alike in the wake of the Gulf war.

In fact, they believe that Jordan cannot do more than maintain its current balanced role vis-a-vis Iraq, citing a number of reasons, not least of which are the economic benefits of being the only gateway to Iraq and the preferential treatment Iraq provides to Jordan in oil supplies.

According to published statistics, Jordan receives oil worth \$500 million annually from Iraq and it pays for only half of it in barter agreements for Jordanian medicine and food. Iraq also owes Jordan \$1.1 billion in debts and accounts for about 20 per cent of all Jordanian exports.

The proposed alternative of depending on Washington's promises for assistance or on Saudi Arabia for reinstating aid to its pre-Gulf levels, these analysts say, cannot be a viable option since even if their leaders wished to assist Jordan the Gulf countries may not be able to deliver on their promises.

At the end of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Robert Pelletreau's first visit to Amman last week and on the heels of reports from Washington that Jordan was being asked to cut its trade and economic links with Iraq, a leading Jordanian columnist questioned whether the Americans would be able to make up the losses that Jordan would incur as a result of boycotting Iraq.

"It would be a similar situation to that we were in after the peace treaty with Israel when the dividends

of peace that we were promised by the Americans never materialised," Fahd Al Fakih wrote in the Al Rai Arabic daily.

Saudi Arabia, which suffers from its own financial problems as a result of the huge expenses incurred by the Gulf war, is not in a position to give Jordan much financial aid, and even if it was it cannot be depended on to stick to long-term deals after its demands from Jordan are fulfilled, analysts say.

Proponents of the hands off policy vis-a-vis Iraq also warn against measures to tighten the noose around Iraq, which may very well mean closing the borders, since these could last for years and would necessarily "suffocate the people we want to save before suffocating the regime."

Ekeus meets Iraqi defector

(Continued from page 1)

by the U.N. followed the war that evicted Iraq from Kuwait in February 1991.

The Iraqi leadership has agreed to cooperate completely with the U.N. Special Commission and provide all missing information about the country's weapons programmes, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

The ruling Revolutionary Command Council and the leadership of the Arab Socialist Baathist Party reached the decision on Monday during a meeting chaired by President Saddam, the news agency said.

In a related development, a senior Iraqi official was quoted as placing the blame for the missing information on Gen. Hassan, the defector.

Gen. Amer Rasheed, who succeeded Gen. Hassan as head of the Iraqi Military Industrialisation Organisation after the defection, told Jordanian journalists visiting Iraq that Gen. Hassan had hidden files containing the information in his farm.

According to Gen. Rasheed, who was one of the key figures in contacts between Iraq and the U.N. Special Commission headed by Mr. Ekeus, said security forces, "acting on a tip-off," took Mr. Ekeus to Gen. Hassan's farm on Sunday and handed over the files, which were kept in an iron cupboard.

"These important files were discovered in the presence of Mr. Ekeus who was keenly interested in the information... which deprives Hussein Kamel of the importance of the information that he might give to Mr. Ekeus during their meeting in Amman," Gen. Rasheed told the journalists.

According to the general, the defector had given "strict instructions" to concerned Iraqi officials not to give Mr. Ekeus any "detailed information" on Iraq's nuclear and biological warfare programmes "to prolong the sanctions on Iraq."

Gen. Hassan has said that he was not in a position to "hide or reveal" anything to the U.N. Special Commission simply because he was not in charge of dealing with the panel. All dealings with the commission were directly guided by President Saddam Hussein himself, according to Gen. Hassan.

Israel, PLO resume talks

(Continued from page 1)

At the bombing scene in the Ramat Eshkol neighbourhood in northern Jerusalem, grieving Israelis placed dozens of memorial candles on the sidewalk washed clean of blood and twisted metal.

Women-only train bound for Beijing?

By Alister Doyle
Reuters

PARIS — Somewhere in Siberia next week, about 150 women will be debating feminism in a special train rumbling along a marathon route from Paris to a world conference on women in Beijing.

Despite nightmares with red tape for the 10,000 km (6,220 miles) trip and some disappointments, the women have set up an ambitious programme for the journey and have even won assurances that the drivers for the six-day stretch from Moscow to Beijing will not be men.

Originally we'd planned to be 300 women. It's been much harder than expected, and we've had huge problems getting visas to enter China and (with) funding," said Maya Salvado Ferrer, the 29-year-old head of "Women by Train to Peking."

"But this gives us a spirit of adventure which we reckon is very important," she told Reuters.

The 150 women will attend the non-governmental organisation (NGO) forum on women from August 30 to Sept. 8, taking place alongside the fourth U.N. World Conference on Women in Beijing from Sept. 4 to 15.

Women from groups as varied as "the association of wives of Mediterranean fishermen" and one for rape victims will debate alongside passengers including artists, singers, human rights workers, part-time feminists, lawyers, teachers and a doctor.

The women, mainly West Europeans, include French, Spanish, Dutch, British, Belgian, German, Polish, Russian, Japanese and Algerians. "The language is likely to be English, and anyone who can will act as an interpreter," said Salvado Ferrer.

The trans-Siberian train from Moscow to Beijing will include a conference car, two restaurant carriages and four sleeping wagons for the passengers, who range from an 11-year-old Belgian girl to a 75-year-old French lawyer and mother of eight.

Ms. Salvado Ferrer said the idea was to help women who cannot afford full-price travel to Beijing and said that conditions would be spartan rather than luxury class.

An all-in ticket costs 10,600 francs (\$2,120), including all train travel, food, hotels in Beijing and a return flight to Europe on Aeroflot.

The trip will start symbolically in Paris on Friday (August 18) when about 50 women leave by regular train to Berlin. There they will join other women on a women-only train via Warsaw to Moscow, where they will again switch trains for Beijing.

The train will host two parallel workshops — one on the "participation of women in the great debates of society" and the other on "women, the media and multi-media."

The trans-Siberian leg, from Aug. 23 to Aug. 29, will have only 15-minute stops, twice a day, in cities including Perm, Omsk and Ulan Bator in Mongolia.

Experts will give instruction on using computers and the internet, but the organisers have given up hope of getting live links by satellite to the internet for lack of money.

Another disappointment is that the Chinese government has shifted the NGO forum to the farming town of Hainou, an hour's drive north of Beijing, rather than in the capital itself. The NGO forum adopts positions to lobby the U.N.

"This will reduce the impact of the forum," Salvado Ferrer said. "It also brings home the point that this is not a luxury tourist trip, it'll need a lot of enthusiasm."

Another group, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, left on a train from Helsinki earlier this month for a trip through eight countries as far south as Turkey to Beijing.

Salvado Ferrer, who has studied in China and the United States and now is trying to develop a career as a sculptor, said the total cost of the Paris-Beijing trip was about two million francs (\$400,000).

The French government has given 100,000 Francs (\$20,000) as the biggest single donation.

Ticket sales and some corporate sponsorship meant that about 20 women would be getting free scholarships to go on the train. Salvado Ferrer said she had not yet carried through a verbal pledge of 200,000 francs (\$40,000).

"We're already exhausted, but we're going to get there," she said.

Tighter government supervision needed in financial deals — IMF

WASHINGTON (AP) — Citing banking disasters in the United States and Singapore, a report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) urges tighter government controls over financial deals.

Problems with banks in Japan and France also warranted more government intervention, says the fund in its annual report on capital markets.

"It is essential that capital-impaired institutions not be allowed to operate without very close supervision, particularly if the government... insures deposits," said the report, which was distributed Monday.

The fund report sharply criticized what it called a policy of allowing lenders to "earn their way out of trouble." It said the United States did that at the start of problems with savings and loans institutions.

The IMF, which lends

money to governments in financial trouble and keeps watch on how they handle their finances, cited a problem with government forbearance in Japan, where banks in good shape often merge with ones in trouble.

"It is becoming more difficult to persuade the larger banks, which are beset with their own problem loans, to acquire insolvent banks," the report said.

It said depositors and investors in Japanese credit cooperatives were suffering because supervision came only from local authorities.

The report criticized the French government for not intervening sooner in the troubles of the state-owned Credit Lyonnais.

Failure to get out information was blamed as a leading element in the collapse earlier this year of Britain's 230-year-old Barings Bank. The bank suffered \$1.36 billion in

losses from high-risk trades by 28-year-old Singapore employee Nick Leeson, now fighting extradition to Singapore from a German jail.

"One of the lessons of the Barings collapse is that had there been greater information sharing among regulatory authorities in Singapore and the United Kingdom, and between the futures exchanges in Singapore, Osaka and Tokyo, the problem experienced by Barings may have surfaced early enough to prevent the collapse," the report said.

Lack of information also played a part in the collapse of the Mexican peso, the report said.

"Mexico had made available only limited economic data during 1994 and... (on the eve of the collapse) had difficulties preventing market participants from expecting the worst," the report said.

Residents of Mexico were the first to weaken the peso by switching their money into dollars and other stronger currencies because they had better information, it suggested.

"Domestic residents in developing country markets tend to be closer to sources of information about domestic economic events and prospects than foreign investors," it said.

Latest data underline Japan's economic woes

TOKYO (R) — Japan's economy received another disappointing diagnosis Tuesday, with the country's key index of leading economic indicators dropping sharply in June.

The index, closely watched as a barometer of trends in economic activity for the subsequent six months, fell to 9.1 in June on a scale of 100, down from 16.7 in May.

It was the second month in a row that the index — which is compiled from a basket of economic indicators such as job figures and money supply — has been below the so-called "boom or bust mark" of 50. A figure below 50 is generally taken as suggesting the economy could contract in the coming months.

The data underlined government admissions that the economy had come to a standstill after struggling for some time to make a clear recovery from recession. But the government was quick to deny the figures showed the economy was actually worsening.

A senior official from the government's Economic Planning Agency, which released the data, rejected any notion that June's figures indicated that the economy was contracting.

"The June data do not warrant a change in the government's assessment that the nation's economy is stalling," the official told reporters. "It is too early to change the official economic view by just looking at the figures for the two months (of May and June)," he added.

A separate report from Japan's central bank, also issued Tuesday, echoed the government view that the economy was trending water. The Bank of Japan's monthly report said the recovery remained at a standstill, although it noted some bright spots such as rising capital investment.

Japan's government first admitted in July that the nation's slow economic recovery had stalled. Until then, it had asserted that the economy was still recovering, albeit moderately, from the recession which followed the bursting of Japan's 1980s economic "bubble" of inflated land and stock prices.

Analysts, speaking to Reuters financial television, said the June figures fell due to poor industrial production, weak housing starts and the lingering negative psychological impact of the Tokyo gas attacks in March.

They were, however, divided on whether Japan's recent poor economic performance was just a temporary deviation from a general economic recovery trend or not.

U.S. '95 budget gap may be lowest in six years

WASHINGTON (R) — The federal government ran up a smaller-than-expected deficit of \$13.58 billion in July, the Treasury Department said Monday, putting the 1995 budget gap on track to be the lowest in six years.

July's red ink was about half that expected by analysts, who said the deficit was trimmed by more than \$7 billion due to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) auction of space on the nation's airwaves.

Last month's deficit followed a revised surplus in June of \$12.81 billion that previously was reported as \$13.7 billion.

Analysts said the deficit is on track to match — or fall below — the Clinton administration's revised deficit forecast of \$160.0 billion for fiscal 1995, which ends Sept. 30.

"You can expect a budget deficit — barring any major surprises — of \$150 billion to \$155 billion for this year," said Kathleen Stephansen of Donaldson, Lufkin Jenrette Securities Corp.

That would make the deficit the smallest since \$152.5 billion in fiscal 1989. Healthy economic growth has enabled the government to bring in more tax revenues, analysts said.

Proceeds from the FCC auctions, which ended in March, were applied to the July deficit, analysts said. In that sale, the agency sold a valuable portion of the nation's airwaves for a new breed of wireless telephones, bringing in \$7.7 billion.

The deficit for the first 10 months of fiscal 1995 was \$137.25 billion, down from \$183.09 billion for the comparable 10-month period the prior year.

Kuwait MPs pass budget, want more deficit cuts

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's parliament Tuesday approved government budget plans aimed at cutting the deficit by 12 per cent in 1995/96 and called for more reductions in the shortfall in coming years.

The budget bill projects spending of 4.23 billion dinars (\$14.1 billion), revenue of 2.910 billion dinars (\$9.7 billion) and a net deficit of 1.32 billion dinars (\$4.4 billion).

The deficit cut comes mainly from an 11 per cent rise in forecast oil revenue to 2.490 billion dinars (\$8.3 billion) due to expected higher prices. The projected net deficit for 1994/95 was 1.503 billion dinars (\$5 billion).

The shortfall will be covered from the State General Reserve, one of the government's two main reserve funds.

The bill now goes for ratification to the emir, Sheikh Jaber Ahmad Al Sabah, a process that takes several weeks.

Finance Minister Nasser Al Rodhan told parliament that

he would submit a five-year deficit reduction plan to MPs by the start of the assembly's 1995/96 session in late October.

"The government attaches substantial importance to this issue (the deficit)," he said.

MP Mishari Al Osaimi, who has criticized the government for presiding over several years of large deficits, echoed demands by many MPs for more deficit reductions, but said that in view of Sheikh Rodhan's statement he would now vote for the 1995/96 budget.

Seventeen MPs abstained in a vote on the bill Saturday in effect blocking its passage, to back demands that ministers submit a long-term plan to cut the deficit.

The projects net deficit is equivalent to about a sixth of national wealth as measured by gross domestic product, estimated by Western economists at about \$24 billion for calendar 1994.

By law a 10th of state revenues are transferred to the government's Reserve

Fund for Future Generations (RFFG), the other main reserve fund, which is meant to help fund the country when oil runs out several decades from now.

The so-called gross budget deficit, which accounts for this transfer, is projected at 1.611 billion dinars (\$5.37 billion) in 1994/95. The country's fiscal year runs from July 1.

Economists say the state's official reserves have been almost halved by a leap in deficits caused by 1991 Gulf war costs and expensive oil-field repairs.

The deficit is directly related to national security because Kuwait would have to pay allies to come to its defence in any future emergency such as Iraq's 1990 invasion, diplomats say.

Officials say reducing the deficit will require politically sensitive cuts in a costly welfare state that provides lavish benefits and a tradition of state jobs for all Kuwaitis. Wages eat up more than half of the country's oil earnings.

Brazil president proposes major overhaul of tax system

BRASILIA (AP) — Saying that the government was preparing the country for inflation-free stability, President Fernando Henrique Cardoso Monday proposed a major overhaul in the country's tax system.

In an address and news conference broadcast nationwide, Mr. Cardoso said the tax reform package would help eliminate tax evasion, reduce taxes, expand tax col-

lections and balance the budget.

The package, which will be sent later this week to congress, includes the elimination of export taxes on primary and semi-manufactured goods as well as the elimination of import and excise taxes on capital goods "that are indispensable for the modernization of our industrial park."

He proposed that max-

imum corporate tax rates be lowered from 48 per cent to 30 per cent.

He said the government wanted to revamp the country's highly "complex and bureaucratic" tax structure in which "increased tax rates lead to lower tax revenue."

"Of the four million companies registered, only 750,000 pay any taxes," Mr. Cardoso said.

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THE Daily Crossword by Grace C. Pinkston

ACROSS

- 1 Distort
- 5 Gussy up
- 10 Go separate ways
- 14 Part of USA: abbr.
- 15 "— of the Jungle"
- 16 Theater award
- 17 Prank
- 18 City in Maine
- 19 Tribal group
- 20 Start of a Will Rogers quote
- 23 Alley
- 24 Employment ad abbr.
- 25 More of 20A
- 32 Images
- 33 Assist
- 34 Printer's measures
- 36 Twitches
- 37 Ripening factors
- 38 War god
- 39 Sign
- 40 Tibetan gazelles
- 41 Make amends
- 42 More of 20A

DOWN

- 1 Day after
- 2 Surrounded by
- 3 Make over
- 4 You and I
- 5 Expeditious
- 6 — avis
- 7 Start of a self-help title
- 8 Gnu feature
- 9 Planned undertakings
- 10 — veto
- 11 Competent
- 12 Inlets
- 13 Decimal base
- 21 Turn's partner
- 22 — la-la
- 25 Cake topping
- 26 Monkey
- 27 Cart
- 28 Nautical word
- 29 Succinct
- 30 Plumed bird
- 31 Revise
- 32 "Lord, is —?" (Bible)
- 35 Comp. pt.
- 37 Pastoral
- 38 Maiden of myth
- 41 Egyptian crown
- 43 Gaseous substances
- 44 Self-esteem
- 45 Lacked
- 48 Rampant
- 49 Coup d'—
- 50 Small group
- 51 Trial
- 52 Compel to go
- 53 Trite humor
- 54 Move easily
- 55 Marquis de —
- 56 Spigot

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

TOAD BABE IRANI
IDLE ISAY NONES
KIEV TIRE NODAL
INSIDE AND OUT
LOON PESTO
LOAF OF ADEN ART
ANDI FARANDWIDE
TEASE DID OILER
HIGH AND LOW LEAS
ELI ROSS HUDDLE
LOOPS BARR
THE WORLD OVER
IDAHO ALAI SEMI
TAKEN REIN ERIC
AWARE PONG SATE

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

"I've never had an office romance, but I do have strong feelings for the coffee machine."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VOLEH
BYNAD
UPLARB
SIDURA

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: TRULY BRAVO SECOND ABUSED
Answer: The home team fans' favorite drink — "ROOT" BEER

Peanuts

DID YOU NOTICE THAT I DIDN'T GO TO CAMP THIS YEAR?

DON'T TALK TOO SOON...SUMMER ISN'T OVER...

THEY COULD STILL DRAG YOU AWAY

I'M GOING TO GO CHAIN MYSELF TO MY BED...

Andy Capp

DON'T FORGET! YOU PROMISED TO TAKE ME OUT THIS EVENING

I NEVER DID

I KNOW YOU'D HAD A FEW DRINKS, BUT YOU PROMISED FAITHFULLY

WELL, I DON'T REMEMBER — BUT A PROMISE IS A PROMISE

WE'RE ALL ALLOWED TO HAVE A LITTLE LIE, BE?

Mutt'n' Jeff

DOC MY BROTHER JULIUS HERE? DON'T FEEL ANY BETTER!

WELL, JULIUS, HAVE YOU CUT OUT ALL STARCHES AND SWEETS AND SMOKE JUST ONE CIGAR A DAY?

YES SIR, I CUT OUT ALL THE STARCHES AND SWEETS —

BUT SMOKING THAT ONE CIGAR A DAY NEARLY KILLS ME —

I NEVER SMOKED BEFORE IN MY LIFE!

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Find the mechanism which will make your home more functional and easier to run properly. Think of small investments you want to make.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can be very charming today and tonight. First handle business well, then start new social plans which include loved ones and close friends.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be with the one you love, and get into activities which are pleasing to you both. Then plan a flattering, new wardrobe which helps your success.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is a good day for repaying any social debts. Be happy with good friends. Friendships make your life richer and more worthwhile.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Do something which will show outside contacts that you value the relationship, and guarantee continuation. Dress well for your success.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get in touch with out-of-towners and show fondness for them. Plan that business or social trip so you can have an enjoyable time.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Do something especially nice for your mate to bring mutual happiness and respect. Try to save more money for later pleasure activities.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) If you impress upon partners how much you like to be with them, you will soon gain added benefits for the future. Be clever in your endeavors.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you are more thoughtful with fellow associates, you can change the atmosphere around you. Be happy in your family life.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Think over what amusements you want to take in and with whom. Be more affectionate with your mate and show that you care for him or her.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a fine time for entertaining guests at your home. Add art pieces or colour to your home and make it look more charming and inviting.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) State what you desire of allies, and express your ideas for a more prosperous future. Be sure you dress nicely so you make a good impression.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arab World

Local drive under stress for price increase

THE PUBLIC SECTOR

employ a total of 116,000 civil servants who are paid an average of \$10,000 a year, according to the Department of Statistics. The department also said that the average income in Jordan was \$10,000 in 1993, 10 per cent higher than in 1992. A survey had an average of \$134 (Al-Dustour).

budget cuts

For Future Generations (FFG), the other main fund, which is meant to run out several decades now.

The so-called gross budget deficit, which accounts for 11 billion dinars (\$3.37 billion) in 1994/95. The one-year fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30.

Economists say the state budget deficit has been halved by 1995. The deficit is directly related to national security. It is not to be used for anything else, such as Iraq's 1990 invasion, diplomats say.

Officials say reducing the deficit will require political sacrifices. The deficit is not to be used for anything else, such as Iraq's 1990 invasion, diplomats say.

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business beat

Local drugs under study for price increases

ACCORDING TO Abdul Rahim Isa, head of the Association of Pharmacists, the prices of some locally-manufactured medicines could be raised by 10 to 15 per cent. The price rise has been sanctioned by the Council of Ministers, Mr. Isa said. Noting that the Kingdom's annual consumption of medicines amounts to \$50 million, he pointed out that the price increase would affect the locally-manufactured drugs, registered 10 years ago and accounting for 40 per cent of the country's total consumption. Mr. Isa said the association was in favour of increasing prices of some local medicines as prices for basic ingredients of raw material had risen in the countries of origin. However, he attributed the increase in the prices of foreign medicines to foreign exchange differentials and not to higher export prices.

Asked about the unrestricted policy for licensing pharmacies, Mr. Isa said that without putting controls, there will be a catastrophe in the pharmacy business and a huge capital loss. Noting that the international level was a rate of one pharmacy to every 5,500 persons, he pointed out that there are about 1,130 pharmacies in a country of four million, not withstanding the fact that 70 per cent of the population is covered by medical insurance from the Ministry of Health or the Royal Medical Services. He said the controls should be, for example, not to award a pharmacy licence to any pharmacist before he/she acquires three years of experience after graduation and to ensure that the applicant will directly run his/her own pharmacy for another three years. Referring to business hours, the pharmacist's chief stressed that pharmacies should abide by the required opening and closing time. He said 75 pharmacies, mostly in Amman and Irbid, have been referred to the association's disciplinary council (Al Ra'i).

LATEST STATISTICS show that the number of tourists during the first six months of this year was 445,157 tourists, 40.28 per cent higher than the 317,331 number of tourists who visited Jordan during the same period of last year. According to sources at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, 49,719 tourists came from the U.S., 141,887 from Europe, 184,753 from Arab and Gulf countries and 52,144 from Israel. The total number of tourists during the first six months of last year was 317,331 tourists. Meanwhile, the manager of the Jordanian Hotels Society described the tourism season as very active and pointed out that hotels were under pressure during March and April. He said that reservations fell back noticeably during May, June and July. Restauranters were not as happy as the head of their association said that the boom in tourism did not reflect on restaurant business. "On the contrary," he said, "this season is less active than last year as our sector depends largely on tourists coming from neighbouring countries and the number of these tourists has been less this year." He also attributed the lack of higher activity to most expatriates going to the West Bank and to increased competition from new restaurants (Al Dustour).

THE PUBLIC SECTOR employs a total of 116,180 civil servants who earn annual salaries amounting to JD 271 million, according to Department of Statistics figures. The department calculated that the average per capita income in Jordan was JD 1,057 in 1993, 19 per cent higher than amount in the base year of 1986. A civil servant had an average of JD 2,336 (Al Dustour).

ABC-TV settles libel suits with cigarette makers

NEW YORK (R) — Two of the world's biggest cigarette makers said Monday they settled multibillion-dollar libel suits against ABC-TV for a 1994 broadcast alleging the companies manipulated the amount of nicotine in cigarettes to keep smokers addicted.

The suits, filed by Philip Morris Cos. and R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., alleged that ABC's news-magazine show "Day One" falsely reported that the companies "spike" cigarettes with higher levels of nicotine.

A statement apologising for an error in the report was read by journalist Diane Sawyer on ABC's "World News Tonight." ABC also agreed to pay attorney fees and other expenses related to the suits, but the amount was not made public.

"It is the policy of ABC news to make corrections where they are warranted," ABC said in a statement that was released by all three companies. "We now agree that we (ABC) should not have reported Philip Morris and Reynolds add significant amounts of nicotine from outside sources. That was a mistake that was not deliberate on the part of ABC but for which we accept responsibility and which requires correction."

"We apologise to our audience," Philip Morris and Reynolds, ABC said.

In its suit filed in state court in Richmond, Virginia, in March 1994, Philip Morris sought \$10 billion in damages. R.J. Reynolds filed its suit, which sought unspecified damages, in state court in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, last February.

R.J. Reynolds' cigarette brands include Camel and Winston, while Philip Morris makes Marlboro and Virginia Slims.

The statement also said ABC and the tobacco companies continued to disagree over the main focus of the "Day One" reports, which aired Feb. 28 and March 7, 1994. But it added that the companies have agreed to end the libel actions.

The settlement comes just two weeks after President Bill Clinton and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) took on the tobacco companies, proposing nicotine be regulated as a drug.

The federal agency said that three decades of research shows that tobacco companies themselves have long believed cigarettes are addictive and have strong appeal to minors.

The president instructed the FDA to propose rules to curtail the sale, distribution and advertising of cigarettes to minors. The regulations would ban vending machine sales and prohibit distribution of free samples.

The tobacco industry has sued to block the FDA action.

R.J. Reynolds senior vice president and general counsel Charles Blixt said by telephone that the settlement with ABC was months in the making.

"We're pleased to accept the apology," Mr. Blixt said. A hearing scheduled in the suits was cancelled Friday as negotiations continued and sources said both sides were still hammering out terms late Monday afternoon.

Although sources said they expected the television network would settle the suits, ABC had been fighting the case as late as last month when it moved to have it dismissed.

Since the suits were filed, Walt Disney Co. has agreed to buy Capital Cities/ABC Inc. in a \$19 billion deal.

The case centred on the cigarette making process. Most cigarettes are made with some reconstituted tobacco, a filler that includes stems and crushed leaves. In making the filler, companies take out the nicotine and then later add it back.

The issue is whether the companies simply recombine the ingredients or whether they "spike" cigarettes as suggested in the "Day One" report. The companies maintain they do not add extra nicotine to cigarettes to addict smokers.

ABC maintained that the main point of the broadcast was whether the companies used the cigarette manufacturing process to control levels of nicotine to keep people smoking.

"There was a mistake we corrected it. The principal thrust of the report, however, was not about (nicotine from) outside sources," said Capital Cities/ABC spokeswoman Patricia Matson. "We continue to believe the broadcast speaks for itself."

One 18-minute segment of the report has become famous for the silhouetted "deep cough" a former R.J. Reynolds official who said manufacturers can control the amount of nicotine put in cigarettes. In one sound bite, he said the companies "put nicotine in the form of tobacco extract into a product to keep the consumer happy."

After the segments were aired, the FDA raised the prospect of regulation for the first time.

There also was a burst of litigation against the tobacco industry including a massive class action suit filed in New Orleans federal court and suits filed by four states seeking to recoup the health care costs of smokers.

Judge approves U.S. Microsoft settlement

WASHINGTON (R) — A federal judge Monday approved the government's year-old antitrust settlement with Microsoft Corp., silencing objections that the deal was too lenient on the software giant.

The action by U.S. District Judge Thomas Jackson clears away a major hurdle for Microsoft, which has been embroiled in the antitrust controversy for five years.

It doesn't entirely end scrutiny of the company, since the government is still investigating Microsoft's online network that is due to be launched this week.

"I would suspect that because they're so high profile in the software arena now, that the Justice Department will always keep one eye on them to try to ensure a competitive industry environment," said Steve McClellan of Merrill Lynch.

Microsoft has long been the target of criticism because of its dominance.

Rivals charged the Redmond, Washington-based company acted in ways that stifled competition, but Microsoft always said that it got to be No. 1 by competing aggressively and lawfully.

The previous judge in the case, U.S. District Judge Stanley Sporkin, in an unusual decision, had thrown out the accord in February because he said it did not go far enough to address Microsoft's "monopolistic practices."

But an appeals court panel found in June that Judge Sporkin had overstepped his authority and Judge Jackson was then appointed to consider the settlement.

The approval comes just days before Microsoft was due to unveil its biggest product in years, Windows 95, which is an upgrade to its basic operating system that is in nearly 80 per cent of all computers.

Microsoft also makes the MS-DOS operating system used in personal computers — the forerunner of Windows.

As part of the settlement, Microsoft agreed to change a number of business practices.

PC makers will no longer pay Microsoft a fee for every machine they ship, regardless of whether or not it contained Microsoft operating software. Rivals charged this practice had shut them out of the market.

It also agreed to end its practice of multi-year licensing agreements, which effectively kept PC-makers tied in to its software for lengthy periods.

Microsoft also agreed to reform its non-disclosure policies, giving software developers more latitude in using test versions of its products.

Although the settlement ends one longstanding antitrust probe against the company, the Justice Department is still investigating its online service, the Microsoft network, which is being sold with Windows 95.

Competitors have charged that by offering the network as part of Windows 95, Microsoft is getting an unfair advantage in luring customers to its system.

An official said in court that the probe of the online service was continuing.

"We are still actively in the process of gathering all the relevant facts," said Donald Russell, chief of the Telecommunications Task Force in the department's antitrust division. "We are not seeking any action at this time."

As for the current settlement, the Justice Department had been seeking approval since it reached the deal with Microsoft in July 1994. With Judge Jackson's ruling, the accord took effect.

Microsoft, however, had wanted the 6½ year decree entered retroactively to Dec. 15, 1994, so that it would expire sooner, but Judge Jackson denied the request.

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Although the settlement ends one longstanding antitrust probe against the company, the Justice Department is still investigating its online service, the Microsoft network, which is being sold with Windows 95.

Competitors have charged that by offering the network as part of Windows 95, Microsoft is getting an unfair advantage in luring customers to its system.

An official said in court that the probe of the online service was continuing.

"We are still actively in the process of gathering all the relevant facts," said Donald Russell, chief of the Telecommunications Task Force in the department's antitrust division. "We are not seeking any action at this time."

As for the current settlement, the Justice Department had been seeking approval since it reached the deal with Microsoft in July 1994. With Judge Jackson's ruling, the accord took effect.

Microsoft, however, had wanted the 6½ year decree entered retroactively to Dec. 15, 1994, so that it would expire sooner, but Judge Jackson denied the request.

Microsoft also makes the MS-DOS operating system used in personal computers — the forerunner of Windows.

As part of the settlement, Microsoft agreed to change a number of business practices.

PC makers will no longer pay Microsoft a fee for every machine they ship, regardless of whether or not it contained Microsoft operating software. Rivals charged this practice had shut them out of the market.

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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
JORDANIAN STOCK EXCHANGE									
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 22/08/1995									
COMPANY NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	INDEX NUMBER	CHANGE	NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET	CHANGE
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	70	905	4,550	4,550	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
BANK OF JORDAN	50	170	3,400	3,400	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
NATURAL EAST INVESTMENT BANK	250	310	1,240	1,240	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	650	1638	2,520	2,520	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
THE HOUSING BANK	4745	1437	6,770	6,770	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
JORDANIAN INVESTMENT BANK	359	1003	2,820	2,820	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
JORDANIAN SECURITIES BANK	11400	1224	1,170	1,170	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
JORDANIAN ISLAMIC BANK	1833	14603	3,040	3,040	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
JORDANIAN INVESTMENT & FINANCIAL BANK	8300	1444	4,120	4,120	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
BEST REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	2600	710	3,150	3,150	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2250	2390	1,050	1,050	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
IRMA INVESTMENT BANK	2444	1044	1,600	1,600	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
BANKS SECTOR	36371	173698	INDEX NUMBER: 102.52	CHANGE: -0.127					
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	26440	4444	1,940	1,940	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS	52300	115200	2,220	2,220	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
JORDANIAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	2844	1233	1,190	1,190	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMERCIAL HOTELS	1650	7779	2,220	2,220	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
AMMAN INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	4150	10520	2,250	2,250	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
JORDANIAN PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	5075	9444	1,350	1,350	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	96210	192151	INDEX NUMBER: 127.34	CHANGE: -0.107					
ATKINS GROUP CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS MANUFACTURING	3800	1523	1,120	1,120	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	23705	217540	3,730	3,730	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
JORDANIAN PHOSPHATE MINES	7300	6992	5,060	5,060	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
THE ARAB POTASH	500	2501	5,000	5,000	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
JORDANIAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	981	9331	9,510	9,510	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	650	1184	3,330	3,330	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	1774	3550	5,060	5,060	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
JORDANIAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	500	2975	6,000	6,000	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
JORDANIAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	280	1078	3,650	3,650	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
SPINNING & WEAVING	263	539	2,050	2,050	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
BATTA INDUSTRIES	273	634	2,340	2,340	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
UAF AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1054	8176	7,750	7,750	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	3500	1526	7,100	7,100	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	900	4863	5,410	5,410	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
INTERSTATE & POLYMER	55800	27185	4,490	4,490	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	680	906	1,400	1,400	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
INTERSTATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1029	2221	2,190	2,190	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
JORDANIAN ROPEWORK INDUSTRIES	550	584	1,130	1,130	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	200	770	3,600	3,600	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	150	2621	4,850	4,850	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
ARAB CENTER FOR PLASTIC & CHEMICALS	500	1080	2,180	2,180	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
FANTHER INVESTMENT	430	645	1,580	1,580	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	2700	8976	3,130	3,130	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
JORDANIAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	1300	2472	2,070	2,070	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
JORDANIAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	1850	3611	1,740	1,740	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	7820	10819	3,290	3,290	102.52	-0.127	1	81257	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	123388	243371	INDEX NUMBER: 127.95	CHANGE: -0.581					
GRAND TOTAL	255905	609275	INDEX NUMBER: 155.58	CHANGE: -0.297					
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET: 81257									
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET: 66439									

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.			
One U.S. dollar	1.3570/80	Canadian dollar	1.4846/56
	1.4846/56	Deutsche marks	1.6616/26
	1.2308/18	Dutch guilders	30.49/53
	5.0770/20	Swiss francs	1622.03/0
	96.74/84	Belgian francs	96.74/84
	7.3440/40	French francs	6.4830/80
	6.4830/80	Italian lire	5.7495/45
	5.7495/45	Japanese yen	
		Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
One Sterling	1.5336/46	U.S. dollar	
One ounce of gold	\$383.60/\$384.10	U.S. dollars	

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Yeboah on target again as Leeds beat Liverpool

LEEDS (AFP) — An astonishing volley by Tony Yeboah sent Leeds to the top of the embryonic English Premiership table as Liverpool were left crying foul over a penalty that was not given here at Elland Road on Monday.

The £3.4 million (\$5.5 million) Ghanaian capture from Eintracht Frankfurt struck a ferocious shot from 25 yards to make it three in two games and maintain Leeds' 100 per cent start.

But Liverpool were left fuming about the tackle by John Pemberton on Stan Collymore that forced the British record signing to limp off with a damaged ankle.

Pemberton clattered into the £8.5 million striker as he advanced deep into the box in only the sixth minute, bringing him down with the ball out of the frame.

Insult was added to injury when Collymore, who had opened his Liverpool career with a stunning goal against Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday, had to make way for substitute Robbie Fowler.

Yeboah had begun the hugely anticipated proceedings with a rising drive from

25 yards that did not trouble David James shortly before the Collymore incident.

Collymore drifted deep to take possession, instantly laid off to Ian Rush and sprinted for the return, taking the ball into the box.

Pemberton raced across and clearly caught the former Nottingham Forest man's ankle as he lunged in with the ball long gone.

Both referee David Elleray and his linesman were well-placed but none of the officials reacted in Liverpool's favour.

Collymore grasped his ankle as he lay on the ground and struggled onto a stretcher before receiving lengthy treatment.

Collymore shook his head as he limped around the field, departing — for a precautionary X-ray — to a chorus of jeers from the home fans in the 21st minute, with Robbie Fowler coming on in his place.

There had been precious little incident in the match before Yeboah took the roof off Elland Road six minutes after the restart.

Tony Dorico hit the ball to

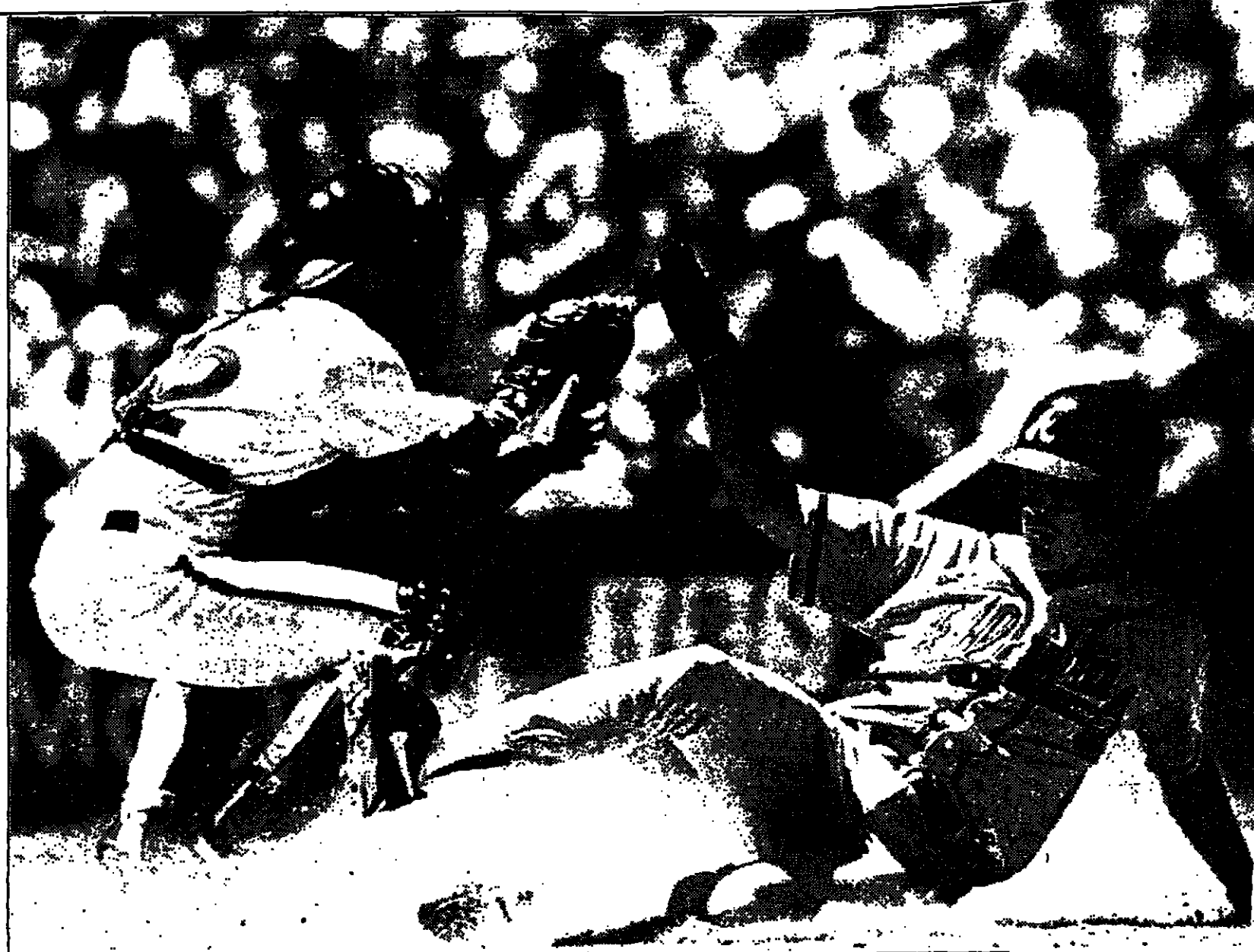
the edge of the box, Rod Wallace nodded back and Yeboah unleashed a thundering strike which flew past David James and in off the bar.

Yeboah's moment of magic lifted the whole tempo of the match as Liverpool responded by picking up their game.

Midway through the half, Mark Wright nodded forward and Rush stretched out a foot to send the ball trickling inches outside the goal, although good work by Wallace then provided an opening for McAllister, the precision of whose side footer was matched by the athleticism of James.

In the 72nd minute, England full-back Rob Jones, still awaiting his first Liverpool goal, took a McManaman pass to let fly from distance, his shot deflecting off John Barnes and crashing against the upright with Lukic a spectator.

James then kept his side in the contest when he somehow parried a point-blank header from Brian Deane but there was to be no rescue act for the Reds.



Giant catcher Jeff Reed waits for the ball while Greg Maddux of the Braves slides safely home as he scores when Giants left fielder Barry Bonds dropped a fly-ball by Braves Jose Oliva

McEnroe: Only Sampras can beat Agassi

MAHWAH, N.J. (AP) — Andre Agassi isn't the only one confident about his chances of repeating in the upcoming U.S. Open.

As far as John McEnroe is concerned, there's only one player in the field of 128 who has a chance to beat Agassi in the Open — three time defending Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras.

"Andre obviously has roared back since Wimbledon," McEnroe said Monday night during a press conference before playing in a charity event with Agassi, Brad Gilbert and Sergi Bruguera at the Pathmark Tennis Classic.

"He took a negative and turned it into a positive after losing a match he should have won," McEnroe said, referring to Agassi's semifinal loss to Boris Becker at Wimbledon. "He's roared back and won four straight tournaments. Pete is struggling, but you have to put those two far and away (above the rest). After that, it's a crapshoot."

When pressed, McEnroe said he would be surprised if anyone other than Agassi or Sampras won.

That's really not a bold statement. Agassi has posted a 46-2 record on hardcourt this year and he has not lost on the surface this summer. The world's top-ranked player fought off two second-set, match points to beat Richard Krajicek 3-6, 7-6 (7-2), 6-3, on Sunday to win the Volvo International.

"I'm going into the U.S. Open believing I can win it and not anything else," Agassi said. "I'm going there to win whether I'm seeded No. 1, or not seeded at all. The importance hasn't changed."

Agassi downplayed his struggle on Sunday, saying he won despite not playing his best tennis the final two rounds. "If it hadn't gone my way, nothing would have changed other than I would have lost one this summer," the 25-year-old Agassi said. "Quite honestly, my confidence is at a high. Not really because I got through that match, it's just a reflection of where my confidence level is."

Brad Gilbert, Agassi's coach, brushed off McEnroe's prediction made before a sold-out benefit for the Newark-based safe passage foundation started by the late Arthur Ashe.

"There are 126 other guys there so I disagree," Gilbert said. "There are two guys who have obviously stepped forward but that doesn't mean they are going to win. As soon as you start thinking no one else can beat you, that's the quickest way to get out of an event."

Gilbert also said the times changed since McEnroe was No. 1.

"Now there's more chance of guys having a tough time the first week," Gilbert said. "There's more depth in the game now than there ever has been, and upsets are very possible."

Kodak host their 1995 mid-year performance review

August 1995 - Kodak (Near East) Inc. recently held their annual Mid-Year Performance Review at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Dubai. This year's event was attended by over 40 representatives from Kodak's Middle East Distributor organisations, including their local distributor in Jordan, Allied Trade and Supplies Company.

"Aimed at providing a forum at which both Kodak and its distributors can re-align and re-consolidate their goals and strategies for the remainder of the business year, our mid-year conference has proven invaluable in ensuring the success of our business in the region. It is an especially important event when one considers the changeability of markets in the Middle East," noted Mr. Andre Nahas, General Manager, Kodak (Near East) Inc. "We have always promoted a close working relationship with our distributors" continued Mr. Heinz Eichmann, assistant general manager "We are fortunate that our distributors are similarly committed to ensuring the continuity of these conferences through their regular participation."

Kodak's next major distributor conference will be held in January 1996.

Brazil maintain lead in FIFA rankings

ZURICH (R) — World champions Brazil maintained their lead at the top of the latest world rankings issued by FIFA on Tuesday.

Leading rankings (1994 rankings in brackets):

1. Brazil (1)	68.42 pts
2. Norway (8)	59.40
3. Spain (2)	58.36
4. Germany (5)	58.31
5. Argentina (10)	57.86
6. Italy (4)	56.60
7. Denmark (14)	56.35
8. Russia (13)	55.45
9. Portugal (20)	55.30
10. Mexico (15)	54.99
11. Switzerland (7)	54.47
12. Bulgaria (16)	53.83
13. Colombia (17)	53.59
14. Romania (11)	53.33
15. Sweden (3)	52.88
16. Ireland (9)	51.58
17. Netherlands (6)	51.18
18. France (19)	51.16
19. U.S. (23)	49.83
20. Uruguay (37)	49.46
21. Egypt (22)	49.41
22. England (18)	48.63
23. Scotland (32)	48.09
24. Ghana (26)	47.98
25. Tunisia (30)	47.68
26. Zambia (21)	47.61
27. Czech Republic (34)	47.01
28. Poland (29)	46.98
29. Belgium (24)	45.76
30. Greece (28)	45.67

Bollettieri will not coach Becker any more

BRADENTON, Florida (AP) — Boris Becker's coach for the past two years, Nick Bollettieri, has decided to give up the job so he can concentrate on his tennis academy, a spokeswoman said Monday. Bollettieri will remain Becker's tennis advisor, but can no longer commit to the time and travel that coaching the German star demands, spokeswoman Linda Dozoretz said.

Mike Depalmer Jr., who has assisted Bollettieri and worked with Becker in the past year, will continue to help coach Becker.

Becker's manager, Axel Meyer-Wolden, didn't return a call seeking comment.

Doping expert Donike dies at 61

BONN (R) — Manfred Donike, the internationally renowned doping expert whose evidence led to the banning of world sprint champions Katrin Krabbe and Ben Johnson, died on Monday two days before his 62nd birthday.

A spokeswoman for the IOC-approved German sports high school laboratory in Cologne which Donike ran said he suffered a heart attack during a flight to Johannesburg.

Donike, a former professional cyclist, was a member of the International Olympic Committee's Medical Commission and was to receive the Olympic Order for his work in the fight against drug abuse in sport.

He was best known for the 1991 analysis which established that urine samples submitted by world 100 and 200 metres champion Krabbe and former East German team mates Grit Breuer and Silke Moeller all stemmed from the same person.

The athletes were banned for four years but then acquitted on a technicality.

But in 1992 Krabbe, Breuer and team mate Manuela Derr were found after analysis at Donike's laboratory to have taken the steroid clenbuterol and banned again.

Krabbe is suing for compensation over the ban but recently had a baby and does not plan to return to the track.

But former world 400 metres medalist Breuer and fellow 400 metres runner Derr have dropped their court action and plan to return to competition this season to prepare for

the 1996 Olympics.

Donike carried out the drugs test at the 1988 Seoul Olympics which led to the sensational disqualification and banning of Canada's 100 metres winner Ben Johnson for taking steroids.

His first coup in the fight against drugs abuse came at the 1983 Pan-American Games where he uncovered 19 doping cases.

Donike was instrumental in pushing through more rigorous testing programmes, especially in Germany, and in arguing for spot testing to prevent athletes concealing their drug-taking.

Last year Donike had no qualms about accusing China's swimmers of systematic doping after their team enjoyed a meteoric rise to the sporting heights.

Donike's crusading work also played a part in the introduction of out-of-competition testing for swimmers in China, as well as the United States and Russia.

Even weight-lifting, one of the sports most susceptible to and plagued by performance-enhancing drugs, changed its rules following pressure from Donike.

"Manfred Donike sacrificed himself to clean sport," German Sports Federation (DSB) president Manfred Von Richthofen said.

In difficult times and in the face of critics of doping-testing he never swerved from his line and not least for that reason earned German sport international respect.

Edwards heads anti climax

GATESHEAD, England (AP) — He warned his home town supporters not to expect anything too exciting, and world triple jump champion Jonathan Edwards could well have been talking about Monday's entire Great Britain versus United States athletics challenge, not just his performance.

Edwards only managed one successful jump of 17.49 metres as the British men beat the U.S. 203 points to 182, while the American women evened the annual meeting, winning 210.5 to 156.5.

After the world championships in Göteborg less than two weeks ago and last Wednesday's stellar evening of athletics at the Weltklasse meet in Zurich, Monday's competition between a second-string U.S. team and Britain deprived of at least two of its biggest attractions, was anti-climatic.

Without Olympic and former world 100-metre champion Linford Christie and world 1500 silver and 800 bronze medalist Kelly Holmes, it was up to Edwards to carry the meet in his first appearance at home since his 18.29 standard setting leap in Sweden.

With three fouls and two passes from six jumps, Edwards' supporters at his home



Jearl Miles of the U.S. runs the 4x400 relay (AFP photo)

track, where he leapt a wind assisted 18.03 last month, only saw him complete one jump.

"It wasn't about winning or even jumping a long way — it was about saying thank you to the people of the northeast for supporting me and celebrating my record," said Edwards, the only world champion at the meeting.

"It was the first time I've been able to relax for a while and I really enjoyed it. I'm feeling very tired and it was a great response from the crowd."

The quality event of the evening was the men's 110 hurdles featuring world record holder and former world

champion Colin Jackson who won convincingly in a quick 13.18, from his teammate and world silver medalist Tony Jarrett.

American Tony Dees, the 1992 Olympic silver medalist, fell at the second hurdle. Jackson missed the World Championships through injury, and was happy with his time Monday. He is having an operation to trim his right knee cartilage at the end of the season.

Britain's Javelin silver medalist in Göteborg, Steve Backley, won the event with a throw of 83.00, 1.48 clear of second placed Tom Puskys of the U.S.

Californian Danny Harris,

the 1984 Olympic and 1987 world silver medalist, cantered home by 10 yards in the 400 hurdles in 48.70.

It took until the last leg of the evening's penultimate event for the Americans to unveil their only individual medal winner from Göteborg.

Jearl Miles, who won the 400m bronze in Sweden only ran in the 4x400 relay in which she made up 30 yards in the last leg to win the event for the U.S. by 10 yards.

The U.S. had six relay medalists competing, two of whom, Chryste Gaines and Celena Monde-Milner, repeated their win in the 4x100 relay.

Durie fights pain barrier for Rangers

LARNACA (AFP) — Gordon Durie is ready to play through the pain barrier to help Rangers clinch a precious place in the European Champions League here on Wednesday.

The Scottish Champions take a 1-0 lead into Wednesday's European Cup preliminary round, second-leg against Anorthosis Famagusta in Larnaca, Cyprus.

Super sub Durie supplied them with that vital advantage in Glasgow but also collected a foot injury, which has made him doubtful for the return match.

"I haven't been able to kick the ball because of the bruising but I've been in the gym working on my fitness," said Durie.

"It's possible I may have to have an injection to play if the manager needs me and I'd be prepared to do that."

"It is such a big game for everyone at Rangers that you desperately want to be involved."

The 29-year-old striker says his side are fully aware that their big club status is on the line once again tomorrow after twice failing to reach the Champions League.

"If we don't make it then we will have only ourselves to blame I suppose," said the former Tottenham and Chelsea star.

"On paper everyone really expects us to beat them over two games so we must do that on the pitch."

"We all want that place amongst Europe's elite, which would mean so much to us as players and the club as well."

"The preliminary round games had become very tight and, in many ways, you feel that if you get through the pressure would be off slightly."

Durie, whose chances of playing on Wednesday rose with the absence of Danish international and Scottish player of the year Brian Laudrup, is unconcerned about reports that the atmosphere in the Adorthosis ground in Larnaca will be extremely hostile for the visitors.

"We experienced that in Athens last year at this stage and we have a number of international players who have been all over the world and are used to that kind of thing," said Durie.

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Bakht and Adileh

Shows: 6, 8:15, 10:45

CONCORD "2"

SPECIALIST

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European Swimming Championships

Van Almsick heads for gold

VIENNA (Agencies) — Franziska Van Almsick opened her bid for a record seven gold medals by leading the qualifiers for the women's 100 metres freestyle final at the European Swimming Championships on Tuesday.

The 17-year-old German, who won six golds and a silver at the last European championships in Sheffield in 1993, eased to the front on the second length of the 50-metre open-air stadium pool and touched first in 56.58 seconds.

Martina Moravcova of Slovakia, silver medalist behind Van Almsick in Sheffield, and Britain's Karen Pickering were second and third in the heat and overall in 56.74 and 56.85 respectively.

Russia's Natalia Mesheryakova, world championship 50 metres freestyle silver medalist, failed to make the eight-strong final. She finished ninth overall in 57.51, 0.34 seconds slower than the eighth qualifier.

Van Almsick, 200 freestyle world champion, is defending titles in the 50, 100 and 200 freestyle and three relays. She is also swimming the 400 freestyle. Van Almsick has a chance of two golds on the opening day of the main swimming programme and she also competes in the 4x200 metres freestyle relay final in which Germany were the fastest qualifiers.

Hungary's Krisztina Egerszegi, who outdid Van Almsick with four individual titles in Sheffield, won her 400 metres individual medley heat in the second-fastest qualifying time of four minutes 44.10 seconds.

Ireland's Michelle Smith claimed the fastest time with a powerful swim in the preceding heat, which she won comprehensively in 4:43.82.

Egerszegi, triple gold medalist at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, is defending only two titles in Vienna.

Apart from the 400 individual medley, she will swim the 200 metres backstroke, in which she won the 1988 Olympic title at the age of 14, but not defend her 100 backstroke and 200

butterfly crowns.

Belgium's Frederic Deburghgraeve upstaged top Hungarians Norbert Rozsa and Karoly Guttler in the men's 100 metres breaststroke heats, establishing himself as fastest qualifier in 1:01.88.

Guttler, who set the current world record in the heats at the 1993 European Championships, won his heat in the second-fastest overall time of 1:02.12.

Rozsa, who won the event at last September's World Championships ahead of Guttler and Deburghgraeve, was second behind the Belgian in the final heat but only fifth equal overall in 1:02.35.

World champion Antti Kasvio of Finland had to settle for second-fastest qualifying time in the men's 200 freestyle heats behind Swedish veteran Anders Holmertz.

Kasvio won the concluding heat in 1:49.87 after Holmertz, European champion in 1987 and silver medalist behind the Finn at the 1994 World Championships, had taken his heat in 1:49.64.

But it was a bad morning for Holmertz's compatriots in the women's 4x200 metres relay heats.

The Swedes, silver medalists behind Germany in Sheffield, touched comfortably first in their heat but were disqualified for a minimally premature final take-over — 0.05 of a second too quick when a margin of 0.03 is permitted.

Meanwhile Vera Ilyina of Russia captured a second gold medal in the 1-metre springboard diving as she rallied with the best dive of the day.

Veteran Edwin Jongejans of the Netherlands won the men's 1-metre springboard competition, gaining back a title he held six years ago.

With Russia's Olga Sedakova winning the solo synchronized swimming, the Russians now had seven golds out of 10 events completed.



Franziska Van Almsick

Franzi deals with money and gold at 17

VIENNA (AP) — Franziska Van Almsick of Germany has learned to cope with superstardom and wealth with an eye on more gold at the Olympics next year.

Van Almsick was a multi-Olympic medalist at 14, a six-time European gold medalist at 15, a world record-holder when 16.

And a multi-millionaire at 17.

With advertising contracts from different companies worth close to \$5 million, Van Almsick is one of the most recognised women in Germany, rivaling Steffi Graf on the marketplace.

She also battles Graf on the sports pages with the two alternating Germany's sportswoman of the year award over the past two years.

She acknowledges that things have become different since she won two silvers and two bronze medals at the Olympics in 1992.

"Of course it has changed more and more after Barcelona but now I have become used to it," Van Almsick said.

Before she was just a top-level swimmer. Now she is a superstar.

"There is a difference between the two facets of life," Van Almsick said. "I personally don't see myself as a superstar. I don't like this

label.

"I am a normal person. I just do different things than other people."

She begins her quest for seven gold medals at the European Swimming Championships Tuesday with heats in the 100 freestyle, where she owns the best time of the year at 55.17. She will also anchor the German 800 relay in the evening.

The 100 will be key for her. (see separate story).

"I can use it as a benchmark. I have been working out hard for these championships," Van Almsick said.

"The first race gives you an idea where you stand."

Later she is set to compete in the 50, 200 and 400 freestyles along with two more relays.

"The 400 will probably be hardest race, not only because of my lack of experience on international level but also it will be my fourth race of the week by Thursday," Van Almsick said.

She thinks she can do well, but many others think the 15-year-old rising star of

Julia Jung who beat Van Almsick at the German nationals this year is a genuine threat to her unique position.

"It is not a question of

prestige," Van Almsick said of the 400 metres rivalry. "I think I can still improve."

"But if there is one race I am particularly looking forward to, it would be the 200."

She set the record for the 200-metre freestyle at the world championships last year but not without controversy.

She originally qualified ninth but was admitted to the eight-swimmer final when her teammate, Dagmar Hase, withdrew among rumors of a payoff.

A world record victory increased Van Almsick's market potential but Van Almsick had to defend herself from critics who suggested that Hase was bought off to give up her place in the final.

"I don't remember anything about the race. I swam with my eyes closed," Van Almsick said. "What happened after the race, I think about a lot. I hope I learned my lesson from this. I hope I proved something when I won the race. But I hope (the situation) will never happen again."

Still, Van Almsick has made herself an exception, rather than the rule. She contributed 40,000 marks of her earnings to the German Swimming Federation, a gesture that eased the way for her to swim with her sponsor's commercial logo on her cap.

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Comaneci assures family, fans: I'm alive

NORMAN, Oklahoma (AP) — Gymnastics great Nadia Comaneci first heard the rumor when her mother called near tears at 3 a.m. Monday.

Since then, she's reassured callers from around the world: She's alive.

A newspaper in Bucharest, Romania, reported Monday the former Olympic champion had died, quoting an anonymous source in the United States, said Aurelia Nastase, a foreign correspondent in Los Angeles.

"It was weird. ... I wanted to turn on CNN to find out

what happened to me," said Comaneci, the Romanian star of the 1976 Olympics who now lives in Oklahoma with fiancé Bart Connor, a 1984 Olympic gold medalist.

Comaneci said her mother learned of the report while vacationing at the Black Sea.

Hers was the first in a steady stream of calls from as far away as Hong Kong and Rome.

The report also spawned calls to Norman regional hospital inquiring about Comaneci's health, said hospital spokeswoman Kathy Dunn.

Comaneci said she has no idea what prompted the report, calling it the "biggest rumor I have ever heard."

Although her family now knows she is fine, Comaneci remains concerned about Romanian friends and fans who read the story.

Comaneci, 33, fled Romania in 1989 and plans to marry Connor next year. Connor is a former University of Oklahoma standout who won the gold medal on parallel bars at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

U.S. soccer signs Mexico's Sanchez

LOS ANGELES (R) — Veteran Mexican soccer star Hugo Sanchez has signed to play next year in Major League Soccer, the U.S. professional league announced on Monday.

Sanchez, an electrifying forward who won five scoring titles and four league championships in seven seasons with Spanish giant Real Madrid, is the second Mexican star to sign with MLS, joining

goalkeeper/forward Jorge Campos.

Campos will play for the Los Angeles team of MLS when the league kicks off next spring. No decision has been made on where Sanchez will play.

"I am very happy to be here in the first stage of MLS and to help in any way I can," the 37-year-old Sanchez said in a statement. "I started my career in the United States

and I am thrilled to be able to finish it here."

Sanchez played for the San Diego Sockers of the North American Soccer League in 1979.

"I would like to help the new league the way Pele and Beckenbauer helped the NASL," said Sanchez, who has represented Mexico in three World Cups.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMARA HIRSCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—East-West vulnerable. as South you hold:

♠876 ♠A94 ♣K854 ♦432

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 NT Pass Pass 2♦

2♦ Pass Pass 2♦

Pass Pass ?

What action do you take?

A—It would be cowardly to pass, but doubling is a little risky—you know West has a five-card suit. That leaves only a competitive raise to can no trump.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠872 ♠934 ♣32 ♦AK106

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

Pass 1 NT Pass

What action do you take?

A—Since partner's no-trump overall in the immediate seat is the equivalent of a one-no-trump opening bid, you have enough to invite game. However, you don't have room to check on the possibility of a 4-4 spade fit, so simply raise to two, no trump to show invitational values. (Besides, partner might have doubled holding four good spades.)

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠10973 ♠A10 ♣A762 ♦A8

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass

2 ♣ ?

What do you bid now?

A—You have the values for game, but don't know where to place the contract. Partner's rebid means little, it could be made on a poor five-card suit because your response consumed a whole level of bidding. Bid two spades to see what develops.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠A78 ♠J63 ♣AQ102 ♦1098

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ ?

What do you bid now?

A—Since you have already bid freely at the two-level, we think a raise to four hearts describes your hand adequately. If you cue-bid spades now, partner would be justified in expecting a stronger or more unbalanced holding from you and could get overboard.

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BLACK SHARK: Russian Defence Minister General Pavel Grachev (right) inspects the battle helicopter "Black Shark" during the opening of the Air Fair International Aerocosmic Salon in Zhukovskiy, 40 kilometres from Moscow, on Tuesday. A total of 145 aircraft and helicopters from 23 countries are on show at the exhibition (AFP photo)

France tightens security after blast suspect nabbed

PARIS (Agencies) — France tightened security on Tuesday after suspected Algerian Muslim militant was detained in Stockholm in connection with bloody bomb attacks in Paris.

Customs officers joined police in carrying out spot checks on travellers and luggage in the country's main railway stations. The railway company SNCF banned non-passengers from platforms. Witnesses said high-speed TGV trains were the most carefully checked. France had already imposed draconian security after two guerrilla bombings in the past month killed seven people and wounded more than 100 in the heart of Paris.

The extra security came after French officials said Swedish police detained Abdul Karim Deneche on Monday at the request of visiting French anti-terrorist Magistrate Jean-Francois Ricard for questioning over the bombings.

French police believe Deneche is a leading member of Algeria's violent rebel Armed Islamic Group (GIA). Both bomb attacks, in which similar devices were used, were claimed by a telephone caller claiming to speak for the GIA.

Investigators believe that Algerian extremists were behind the two bombings and last month's killing in a Paris mosque of Algerian Muslim cleric Abdul Baki Sahraoui who had been threatened by the GIA.

The French daily Le Monde said French investiga-

tors had identified Deneche as Abdul Sabour, a man the well-informed Algerian daily La Tribune had accused of being responsible for Sahraoui's killing and planning attacks in France.

It said Deneche's name was on the Stockholm letterbox of Al Ansar, an Islamic newsletter which said last month that Algerian Muslim militants were behind the bombing of an underground commuter train in central Paris last July 25.

Press reports said a gendarme recognised Deneche from a photograph as a man he saw agitatedly getting off the train seconds before the bomb exploded on board, killing seven and wounding 36.

A second bomb wounded 17 people near the Arc de Triomphe last week.

Le Monde said Judge Ricard may issue an international arrest warrant against Deneche after studying the reports of his questioning by Swedish police. It said Deneche's wife was also detained.

Swedish and French officials maintained a news blackout on Deneche. French Justice Minister Jacques Toubon said early disclosure of his arrest may have hampered investigators.

"I am trying to make sure that police and justice services solve the attacks and I am not sure that this will be best done in public. Statements are more help to criminals than to investigators," he told RTL radio.

Deneche denied belonging

to GIA last January in interview with Swedish Television in which he also said French authorities knew that they could not stop the group taking power in Algeria.

The claim made in the name of the GIA accused Paris of backing Algeria's military government in its fight against Muslim fundamentalist rebels.

Mr. Toubon said he could not see clearly what the bombers were trying to achieve and France's Algeria policy had not changed.

"Our government's policy remains the same: It wants democracy in Algeria."

He said Deneche's arrest proved that a French police crackdown on suspected Algerian militants had forced them abroad and that police cooperation in Europe was working well.

Sources close to the probe said many news clippings of the evening rush-hour explosion at the Saint Michel station were found at Deneche's home in Sweden.

The Algerian daily Tribune said "Abdul Sabour" the head of all GIA networks in Europe and had units in Belgium, Bosnia, Britain, France — where they were not known to police — and Sweden.

Swedish television, however, reported that Deneche claimed he does not belong to the GIA. Footage from an interview in December, broadcast Monday, shows a man, his face shaded out, saying: "I don't have any links with the GIA, I am not a member of the GIA."

Nzo: No nuclear secrets to Iran

PRETORIA (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo on Monday denied South Africa was passing on nuclear secrets to Iran, saying dealings between the two countries fell within the scope of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

At a media briefing here, Mr. Nzo said South Africa, as a signatory to the treaty, "would never at any stage be involved in any activity with any country that is likely to produce a result in which that country produces nuclear weapons or weapons of mass destruction."

Foreign Affairs Director General Rusty Evans said at the weekend that a visit to Iran by Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Piki Botha in March, during which he held a series of meetings on nuclear cooperation, had sent "alarm bells ringing with the Americans."

The Johannesburg Sunday Times said U.S. fears that South Africa could be passing on nuclear secrets to Iran were behind strenuous efforts in recent weeks by the Americans to persuade South Africa not to develop close ties with the Islamic republic.

South Africa is busy concluding a deal under which some 15 million barrels of crude oil will be stored at Saldanha, on South Africa's west coast.

Peace with Israel is far away — Sharaa

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Peace between Israel and Syria is distant, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said Tuesday during a visit to Stockholm.

"As long as there are settlements on the occupied territories, as long as the Israelis have not thought thoroughly of withdrawal one should expect that tension will remain," Mr. Sharaa said at a news conference.

He would not condemn Monday's bomb attack on a Jerusalem bus that killed five people.

"We condemn first of all armed settlers that occupy others' land," he said. He added he had heard the suicide bomber was a woman and offered understanding for her.

"Perhaps she had lost a few sons or brothers."

At the moment there are no formal talks known between the two countries. Previously both sides held an inconclusive dialogue on an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Mr. Sharaa said next year's elections in Israel and the United States could speed up the peace process if the candidates make peace an issue.

"If the Israelis and the Americans are serious about peace then this should help rather than undermine" the peace process, he said.

Mr. Sharaa repeated Syria's rejection of the key Israeli demand for each country to set up electronic monitoring posts — so-called

ground-based early warning stations — on the other side of the border at the Golan Heights.

"They want to use the ground stations to spy rather than to stop the war," Mr. Sharaa said.

The early warning system and demilitarised zones on both sides of the border would be set up after an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

Syria would prefer satellite and air reconnaissance, Mr. Sharaa said. Israel has rejected that.

Mr. Sharaa arrived in Sweden Tuesday for talks on bilateral issues and the Middle East. On Wednesday he will continue to Denmark and Norway.

Syria and Iran, both branded sponsors of "terrorism" by the United States, meanwhile sought to explain the causes for Monday's deadly bus bombing in Jerusalem.

The Syrian government said the explosion was an inevitable consequence of flaws in Israel's peace accords with Jordan and the Palestinians.

A state-run newspaper said the apparent suicide attack proves Israel cannot expect full security from "partial deals."

"The explosion has drawn a very clear picture about the negative and destructive repercussions of the partial deals, the promoters of which have tried to impose with all means of power, pressure and blackmail," said Al

Thawra, a government mouthpiece.

Iran's state-controlled radio criticised the tactic used in the bombing, but claimed Palestinians had no choice but to resort to such methods.

"There is no doubt the planting of bombs is unprincipled and abhorrent," the radio said in a commentary. "But," it added, "this is the course the Palestinians have apparently been forced to choose in light of the daily mounting violence and suppression in occupied Jerusalem."

In a previous broadcast, the radio suggested it was too early to pin the blame on Hamas.

It quoted "informed political observers... not ruling out the probability of involvement of rival and extremist Zionist groups in such explosions."

"The blast demonstrates that such partial agreements should still be rejected and are unacceptable because they are prejudicial to the Palestine people's rights and aspirations," it added.

"Did these partial agreements guarantee Israel's security?" the paper asked. "Did they set the Israelis at ease and make them practise their daily life away from the feelings of fear and worry?"

Al Thawra said only a "just and comprehensive" peace would "eradicate all elements of tension and explosion and could end all kinds of injustice, occupation and hegemony."

Iran bank official sentenced to death for multi-million fraud

NICOSIA (Agencies) — A senior Iranian banker was sentenced to death Tuesday and two accomplices were handed down life sentences in the biggest embezzlement scandal to go to trial in Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The state-run Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said the trio were among five defendants convicted of misappropriating up to \$235 million from the state-run Bank Saderat, a case that had spotlighted rampant official corruption slowing down government efforts to resuscitate the economy.

In addition to the five, two men were ordered to pay fines for minor involvement in the case and a third defendant was acquitted of all charges, said IRNA, monitored in Cyprus.

The trial had taken political dimensions because one of the defendants, Morteza Rafiqdoust, is the brother of a senior Iranian official who is related by marriage to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani. He was one of the two sentenced to life in jail.

Mohsen Rafiqdoust, the convict's brother and brother-in-law of the Iranian president, is former Revolutionary Guards Corps minister. He now heads the multibillion-dollar Foundation for the Oppressed and Disabled, one of several "bonyads," or state con-

glomerates, which are supposed to help Iran's poor, who make up most of the country's 60 million population.

Mohsen Rafiqdoust was dismissed from the cabinet following a no-confidence vote by parliament in 1988 after he was linked to major corruption scandals.

In addition to the embezzlement charge, Fazel Khodadad, the key defendant in the Bank Saderat scandal, was convicted of "sabotaging the country's economic system" for which he was condemned to death.

IRNA said Abtaleb Ibrahim, like Mr. Rafiqdoust, was sentenced to life for misappropriating public funds.

One defendant, Khosrow Vaseghi, was acquitted, said IRNA. Two others, Ebrahim Arya and Jamshid Arqand, were sentenced to 15 years in prison each and ordered to pay fines.

The verdicts and sentences were handed down by the no-jury, single-judge Tehran public court, which rules by Islamic law.

It was not immediately known whether the convicts have the right to appeal to a higher court.

The Bank Saderat case had increased public pressure on the government to take action to stamp out official graft at a time when the economy is deteriorating.

A senior Iranian cleric last

month criticised the judicial system for dealing harshly with ordinary citizens while allowing "big shots" to go unpunished.

In referring to the embezzlement case, Ayatollah Ali Akbar Meshkini had said that if the defendants were found guilty, the authorities should "suck out the money from their filthy guts, firmly and decisively and give them what they deserve."

Mr. Meshkini heads the 83-member Assembly of Experts, which chooses Iran's supreme leader.

After five years in power, Mr. Rafsanjani remains unable to steer the economy out of the doldrums.

More than half of Iran's population is below 16 years of age, which makes the task of expanding the economy and creating new jobs even more urgent.

Oil revenues, Iran's economic lifeline, have plummeted following a price slump on the international market. The government is desperately trying to boost non-oil exports, which traditionally have been limited to carpets, caviar, dried fruits and handicrafts.

Economic pressures heighten the possibility of social upheaval, which Mr. Rafsanjani is trying to avert. Riots already have erupted in many Iranian cities in recent years as the economy has deteriorated.

Bedouins recall Israeli massacres of prisoners

CAIRO (AP) — The bedouins remember the massacres, how Israeli troops killed dozens of Egyptian prisoners of war (POWs) and threw their bodies into wells or left them in the desert, and how the bedouins would gather the bodies and bury them.

Decades after the 1948, 1956 and 1967 Arab-Israeli wars are rekindling memories of wars in which thousands perished. The disclosures are building on already fierce resentment of Israel inside Egypt, despite the Egyptian government's low-key reaction.

Egyptian human rights groups and journalists have called for those responsible to be charged with war crimes and put on trial and have demanded compensation for families of the victims.

Egyptian newspapers on Tuesday quoted bedouins in the Sinai Peninsula, the scene of the fiercest Arab-Israeli combat, who recalled the massacres and the burying of bodies in 1967.

"A helicopter flew low and with a microphone, they called on members of the Egy-

ptian army to gather in one place to give them water and food," Muslim Al Hous told the state-owned Al Ahrar newspaper, which tracked him down in the coastal town of Al Arish.

"Two Israeli soldiers got out of the helicopter, gathered the weapons of the Egyptian soldiers, stood them in line and shot them all dead," he said.

The massacre occurred in an area called Al Mosama near Al Arish. Mr. Hous was among civilians rounded up by Israeli forces, but later released.

Ibrahim Al Alakmy, another bedouin in Al Arish, recalled an incident in which Israeli troops forced Egyptian soldiers and civilians to stand in line at Al Arish airport.

"Each time they would take a group, walk them away from the lines and shoot them," Mr. Alakmy said.

Neither Mr. Hous nor Mr. Alakmy said how many prisoners were killed in the incidents they witnessed. Mr. Alakmy said he was among those standing in line, but

was released.

Another opposition newspaper, Al Ahrar, did not quote its witnesses by name, but by its count, at least 2,770 Egyptian POWs were massacred in the 1967 war. Former Israeli officers and military historians put the figure at more than 1,000 POWs killed during the 1948, 1956 and 1967 wars.

Egypt lost 11,500 soldiers killed in the 1967 war and had 10,000 taken prisoner. Israel had 777 of its troops killed and 17 captured.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has rejected calls to investigate the massacres, saying both sides were guilty of transgressions and that Arab forces also committed war crimes.

On Monday, the Egyptian organisation for human rights urged international human rights groups to pressure Israel to investigate the killings. The Egyptian Journalists' Union called for the Israeli soldiers to be put on trial before an international court and for Israel to provide compensation for victims' families.

COLUMN

Kiss earns German woman \$600 fine

BONN (AFP) — A German woman who kissed her boyfriend while he was driving was fined 827.50 marks (\$600) Tuesday for causing a traffic accident as a result. A judge in the western town of Ibbenbueren ruled that the star-crossed Romeo lost control of his car as a result of the smooch and collided with another vehicle. According to investigators, the culprit was snuggled up against her companion and decided to give him a kiss as he was pulling up to an intersection. But she picked the wrong moment as the light was turning red.

British television violence on decline

LONDON (R) — The amount of violence shown on British television has almost halved in the past 10 years, an independent study showed.

Research set up in the wake of the vicious 1993 murder by two 11-year-old boys of Liverpool toddler James Bulger showed that violence accounted for just 0.61 per cent of the output of Britain's four terrestrial television stations. The figure for 1986 was 1.1 per cent, researchers at Sheffield University said. State-owned BBC and Britain's independent television companies have tried to reduce the violent content of their programmes because of concern over the effects on children. The murder of two-year-old Bulger, lured away from his mother in a shopping centre and battered to death with bricks and stones, horrified Britons and made headlines around the world. Evidence at the trial suggested the schoolboy killers may have been influenced by horror videos.

World Malay language congress opens

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Delegates from 25 countries Monday opened a five-day conference to discuss how to make Malay, the national tongue of Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Brunei, an international language. Backed by Indonesia's huge population of 194 million, Malay is spoken by an estimated 250 million people worldwide. But the language does not have its own script. It is instead written in the Roman script. The conference, "Malay language as an international language: vision and confidence," has been organised by the government-run Language and Literary Agency. More than 130 papers are to be discussed by delegates who include representatives from France, China, Russia, the United States, South Africa and the Netherlands.

Crowd watches as woman jumps to death in river to escape attacker

DETROIT (AP) — About 40 onlookers cheered as a man with a crowbar forced a woman to strip to her underwear and then chased her until she jumped to her death from a bridge, police said. No one tried to stop the attack early Saturday at the Belle Isle Bridge, which occurred after the man and woman were involved in a traffic accident, authorities said. The body of 33-year-old Deletha Word was found several hours later in the Detroit River, miles downstream from the bridge that links Detroit to an island park. "They don't have any heart," said Ms. Word's mother, Dortha Word. "They don't have any conscience. They are just as much at fault as the man who made her jump." One man was taken into custody Sunday but no charges had been filed as of Monday, police said. A second man was being sought.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Settler remanded over killing

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A Jewish settler suspected of shooting dead a Palestinian was remanded in custody for a further 10 days by a Jerusalem court on Tuesday. Zeev Liebskind, 40, was arrested after newspapers published photographs of him firing his M16 assault rifle in the direction of Palestinians during a protest over land rights. Israelis from the West Bank settlement of Beit El opened fire on Aug. 13 after Palestinians demolished a building under construction and set fire to flags and religious books on a disputed hill-top. Police say the bullet extracted from Liebskind's rifle killed 23-year-old from the neighbouring village of Dura Al Qar. Mr. Liebskind's lawyer Yair Golan said his client fired in the air and did not aim at anyone while therefore pleading not guilty. He has also accused the Palestinians of carrying and a "pogrom," although not a single Israeli was hurt.

Yemen cracks down on illegal workers

ADEN (R) — Police in Yemen are cracking down on foreigners working illegally in the country, which suffers from high unemployment. Officials and residents said on Tuesday. Interior Minister Hussein Mohammad Arab was quoted by the government newspaper October 14 on Tuesday as saying the campaign was launched because of an increase in the number of foreigners staying illegally in Yemen. He gave no figures. "Those who prove to be staying or working illegally will be deported," he added. Presidents in Aden said police were picking up foreigners, mainly Somalis, from the streets. Similar measures were being taken in other parts of the country. Several thousand Somalis fled to Yemen in the early 1990s to escape war in their own country.

Germany to maintain aid to Palestinians

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Germany's Development Minister Carl Dieter Spranger renewed Bonn's commitment to aid the Palestinians on Tuesday after meeting Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. "We intend to continue to help and support the Palestinian people," said Mr. Spranger, who saw Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Tuesday. Mr. Spranger was in travel on to Jordan and then in Syria.

Bomb alert in Hamburg station

HAMBURG (AFP) — A major bomb alert was sparked at the main Hamburg railway station Tuesday by a suspect device in a briefcase which turned out to be a small camera accompanied by laboratory material, police said. Police earlier said they had defused the device in the briefcase, which was left at a newspaper kiosk in an entrance to the main station hall. The station was partly evacuated and sealed off after a person noticed a wire trailing out of the case, and police said they had defused the supposed bomb with the help of a high-pressure water jet. Police at the same tackled other suspicious objects in the station. But these also turned out to be harmless.

Egypt to open bird study centre

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt will open a centre for the study of Mediterranean migratory birds this autumn in the north Sinai desert, the director of the Al-Zaranik nature reserve told AFP on Tuesday. "The centre is of prime importance for studying the migration of birds passing over Egypt from Europe to return in Africa," Wahid Salameh said. Salameh said the Al Zaranik reserve, near the coastal town of Al Arish, plays host to "91 of the 167 types of birds which exist in the Mediterranean, especially cormorants, pelicans, herons, plovers, terns, egrets and warblers." The centre, which has been planned since 1985, will gather Egyptian experts on observing and classifying bird species as well as birdlovers from Egypt and abroad.

Detainees killed in Turkey — group

ANKARA (AFP) — Fourteen people were killed in Turkey while in detention or under mysterious circumstances in July, and another 23 were tortured by police, a human rights organisation said Tuesday. Akin-Birdal, head of the Turkish Human Rights Association, told a news conference that 1,572 people were arrested in July, 117 of whom were charged. He accused the Turkish security forces of excessive and "arbitrary" detentions. Mr. Birdal did not elaborate on who may have killed those who died outside prison, but said it was the work of "unknown perpetrators," a term generally reserved for police killings.